THE INDEPENDENT

Tuesday 2 December 1997 IR50p (45p) No 3,471

INSIDE TODAY

Having a father worse than Jaws
THE EYE

Suzanne Moore on the death of a culture heroine
19/FEATURES

Network+ with pages of IT jobs

TODAY'S NEWS

Harriet freed, with one bound

It was billed by some as the first great rebellion of the Labour Government, and a come-uppance for Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security. In the event, though, disgruntled Labour backbenchers stayed away in droves from the Commons when it came to debating the proposed cuts in single parents' benefit: only eager Blair loyalists turned up to applaud the Government's firm line. Page 7

BSE inquiry

A public inquiry into the BSE crisis will be launched by ministers before Christmas. Billions of pounds has been paid in compensation and 20 people have died from CJD – more than enough, according to some Cabinet ministers – to justify the kind of inquiry that would normally be held into a major scandal or disaster Page 12

Euro warning

Europe could split down the middle if the core group of countries who are creating the single currency go ahead with an "inner economic cabinet" that excludes nations like Britain, Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, warned in Brussels yesterday. Page 14

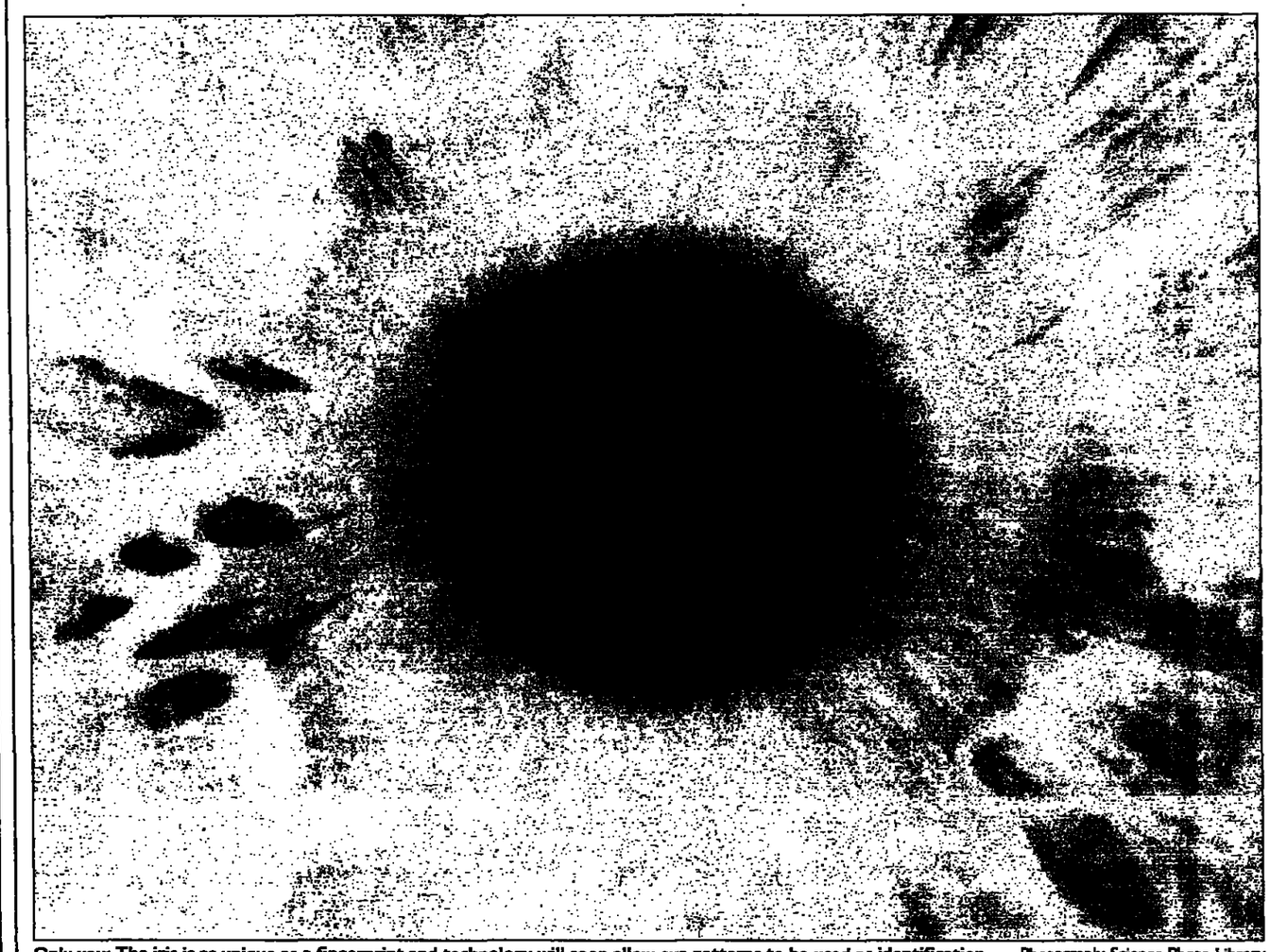
Grappelli dead

Stephane Grappelli, the world's most renowned jazz violinist who famously played alongside Django Reinhardt, died yesterday aged 89 following a career spanning 70 years. He continued to perform until only a few months ago. Page 3

The Eye, page 12
Page 32 and
the Eye, page 9
The Eye, page 10

Web address: http://www.independent.co.uk

Your eye. The ultimate ID card



Only you: The iris is as unique as a fingerprint and technology will soon allow eye patterns to be used as identification Photograph: Science Photo Library

The PIN code of the future will be impossible to remember – yet you'll carry it everywhere. New cash machines will be able to read the pattern of your iris, uniquely and unforgeably identifying you. *Charles Arthur*, Science Editor, describes how Swindon is hosting a futuristic technology.

The head office branch of the Nationwide Building Society is to be the venue for a system which could eventually replace cash cards and the hassle of forgotten four-digit PINs _ personal identification numbers. An automated teller machine (ATM) will go into use next year which has an inbuilt video camera that can scan the user's iris for 250 key characteristics in its radial pattern, and determine within two seconds if the person is who they claim to be.

Like fingerprints, the iris offers a unique mark of identification. This could mark a breakthrough in the fight against fraud.

The new system, built by Sensar of New Jersey, compares the picture of the iris taken at the ATM with a previously stored image. It claims accuracy of better than 0.001 per cent and works even when the person is wearing contact lenses or glasses. It even works for blind people and those with cataracts. The only people for whom it does not appear to work are those born with a congenital form of blindness which leaves them without an iris.

Forgery is also impossible. Photographing the iris and sticking that on spectacles, or (gruesomely) taking out the eyeball would all fail, said Mike Magin, technology vice-president of Sensar, because the system detects the three-dimensions of the eye.

The system lights the iris, scans it with a video camera and then uses a computer to analyse the results. The extra cost is already less than $25,000 (£15,250).

If the system could be miniaturised and condensed onto a single chip, it could be used to personalise many other consumer items, replacing house and car keys, and offering a guaranteed password for PCs.

The Nationwide trial is expected to last six months. Nationwide chief executive, Brian Davis, said: "it will be fascinating to test our customers' reaction to it." Tom Drudy, head of Sensar, said: "We think it will change the way people do banking."

Cook pledges fund for war Jews

Britain is setting up a fund for survivors of the Holocaust, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, will announce at the opening of the Nazi gold conference in London today.

All 15 countries who stood to benefit from £40m of gold from the Second World War settlements have agreed in principle that it should be bequeathed to thefund.

Thousands of victims of the Nazis are to benefit from the sale of the remaining 5.5 tonnes of gold recaptured from the Nazis and the Axis powers at the end of the war.

Instead of the gold being returned to nations whose reserves were looted by the Germans, months of negotiations have secured agreement in principle that it should go to Holocaust survivors and their families.

Mr Cook, who will launch the fund when he opens the international conference on Nazi gold at Lancaster House this morning, will also appeal for other governments to make donations. He outlines the plans in an article in *The Independent* today.

Legislation going through the US House of Representatives has proposed a US contribution to such a fund of up to $25m. The Foreign Office last night refused to say how much Britain would contribute.

The gold has been held for more than 50 years by the Tripartite Gold Commission (TGC), comprising Britain, America and France. Legal wrangles held up the final payouts which gave Jewish organisations the opportunity to plead that people, not nations, should be the beneficiaries.

Files found in the last year have shown that some of the TGC gold must have been stolen from Jews, including gold teeth fillings extracted in the concentration camps.

A fiery press conference held by the World Jewish Congress and the Holocaust Educational Trust in London yesterday suggested that million-pound offerings will not be enough for Jewish organisations who see this week's 40-nation gathering as the last chance to help Holocaust survivors.

Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, said they were expecting "10-figure" compensation – several billion dollars – from Switzerland alone. "Holocaust survivors are dying every day. I'm not waiting," he said.

— Louise Jury

Robin Cook, page 21

Suspended: the police guru of Blairite zero tolerance

The senior policeman who has pioneered zero tolerance policing was yesterday suspended on full pay. *Michael Streeter*, Legal Affairs Correspondent, looks at the future of a policing technique whose champions are led by Tony Blair

Ray Mallon: Suspended

Detective Superintendent Ray Mallon, whose tough policing policies in Middlesbrough attracted national and international interest, was suspended from duty yesterday following allegations of misconduct.

The controversial policy, which is said to have cut levels of crime in the area by 26 per cent, caused a flurry of interest among politicians such as Tony Blair and Jack Straw, both of whom met Mr Mallon – dubbed "Robocop" – during the general election.

The Prime Minister declared himself "passionate" in his support for the "new policing" which tackles minor crimes, such as dropping litter, to create a climate in which more serious crime is not allowed to flourish.

Cleveland Assistant Chief Constable Robert Turnbull said Mr Mallon faced two separate allegations. One was passing on confidential information about an inquiry – called Operation Lancet – into police corruption in the force to a third party. This is thought to refer to journalists. The second was of alleged activities which "could be construed as criminal conduct".

Mr Mallon later said he had done nothing wrong, adding: "I have nothing to worry about."

Meanwhile, Assistant Chief Constable Andrew Timpson of Northamptonshire Police has been appointed as an independent head of investigations into police corruption in Cleveland. He will oversee the existing internal inquiry, set up under the auspices of the Police Complaints Authority last month after two CID officers were suspended following the collapse of a drugs case. It is understood that fresh allegations arising since the original inquiry began include claims of assault on members of the public by unnamed officers.

The suspension of a senior figure such as Mr Mallon, one so closely identified with a policy criticised by some other police forces, will raise questions about the future of zero tolerance policing both in Cleveland and elsewhere.

However, Mr Turnbull said the policy would continue: "Positive policing as we prefer to call it will continue to be operated by the force. Zero tolerance is bigger than one man."

He said the allegations of police corruption which led to the suspension of the two detectives last month related to incidents in 1993 and 1994 – before the new policy – as well as the past year. The pair, Sean Allen and Brendan Whitehead, were suspended over allegations that they supplied heroin to a suspect in return for confessions. Theere have been claims that up to 500 cases would have to be reopened by the force.

Labour politicians such as Mr Straw see zero tolerance dovetailing neatly with their "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime" stance. However, some chief constables, notably Charles Pollard of Thames Valley Police, have warned that while having a short-term use, zero tolerance had its dangers – and that confrontational policing could lead to social disorder.

Mr Mallon, 42, is a blunt-speaking policeman who has been feted by Tory as well as Labour politicians. A teetotal, non-smoking fitness fanatic, and a former water polo international, when he took over as head of Middlesbrough CID at the start of this year he pledged that he would ask to be sacked if he did not reduce crime by 20 per cent in 18 months.

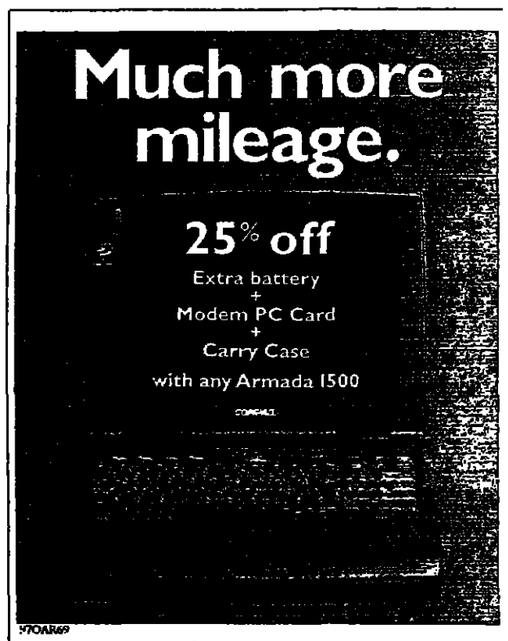
Officers have been told to stop people for spitting, swearing, dropping litter and any other anti-social crime. Mr Mallon used to hold morning briefings similar to those on the fictional television police series *Hill Street Blues*, telling officers: "You are the law, make a difference."

He reduced his zero tolerance philosophy to: "Strategy the what. Tactics: the how. Motivation: workforce, management, media, public"

After his arrival as head of CID, a third of the department's detectives left, amid suggestions that their faces did not fit. Cleveland Police have been using CS sprays more than any other force in Britain and a fourfold increase in the number of suspects being stopped and searched has drawn criticisms from civil liberties groups.

Tony Williams, of the Police Complaints Authority, said yesterday that in the wider inquiry they were investigating "serious criminal and disciplinary" issues. "Both the force and the PCA will take an extremely serious view of any attempt to interfere with this inquiry or obstruct it in any way," he said.

Last night Downing Street said the Government was determined to tackle crime and that zero tolerance "had a part to play". There was no comment on the suspension.



97OAR69

A Compaq Armada notebook is the ideal solution for business on the move. Now you can buy a Compaq Armada 1540D for just £1,449.00 (ex.VAT) or £1,702.58 (inc.VAT).

Highly competitive features include 150MHz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology, 16MB RAM, 2.1GB Hard Disk, 12.1" STN screen, 20 x CD-ROM and Lithium Ion battery. And we've gone one step further with 25% off a pack of options including an extra Lithium Ion battery as well as a Global 33.6 Telephony Modem PC Card and suitably tough and businesslike carry case. Call us for more advice and the latest Compaq offers to help your business grow. You'll find we'll go the extra mile for you.

To go further with Compaq, call us today on:

0845 270 4747

Offer ends 31st December 1997.

Lines open 8am-8pm Mon to Fri. 10am-4pm Sat and Sun. Local call rate.

www.compaq.co.uk COMPAQ

*Options pack offer price is £259 exc. VAT (£304.33 inc. VAT). Normal price is £345 exc. VAT (£405.38 inc. VAT). Prices quoted are Typical Buying Prices and are correct at time of going to press. Price quoted refers to Armada 1540D. Offer closes December 31st 1997. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation.

49

9 770951 946528

هكذا من الاصل

COLUMN ONE

Murder inquiry seeks to get inside killers' minds

The classic British murder, said George Orwell, was one that you could pore over in the Sunday newspaper after eating your roast beef and suet pudding. The murder, like the traditional Sunday lunch, would have a well-defined list of ingredients. Typically, the killer was a professional married man who had an obsession with another woman. After much soul-searching he would decide that an elaborate plan to poison his wife was the only way to resolve the dilemma with his social standing apparently intact.

To Orwell (pictured), who wrote about the decline of such killings in a famous essay in *Tribune* in 1945, growing social instability meant that murder was increasingly likely to be a more spontaneous affair. The "old poisoning dramas", he lamented, did at least "have strong emotions behind them".

Yet even today, amid the film imagery of drive-by slayings and terrorist massacres, it remains a statistical fact that you are more likely to know your killer than the thief who takes your video recorder.

Half of female murder victims are killed by family members or partners. And two-thirds of male victims know their killers. And unlike car thieves, vandals and burglars, the killer is fairly easy to track down. Most are apprehended or identified at the scene of the crime and 95 per cent of the 600 or so murders a year are cleared up.

But despite public outrage over crime levels and what the police often describe as "senseless killings", no one has yet thought systematically to ask the killers themselves why they do it.

Until now. *The Independent* has learned that the Prison Service and Scottish Office have agreed for a team of criminologists to visit jails and probation centres and speak face-to-face with 175 British killers. Publicly funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, this will be the biggest study of murder ever carried out in Britain. The results will be analysed at the universities of Manchester, Newcastle and Glasgow.

The researchers will have access to the killers' prison and probation files, so that they can build up a life history of each individual. They will speak to domestic murderers, serial killers, child killers and sex attackers who murder their victims. Their purpose is to pinpoint the social, family and individual factors which drive men and women to kill. The researchers believe that if they can identify patterns of behaviour then potential killers can be stopped.

"In this country you are at very little risk of being killed by someone you don't know," said Russell Dobash, Professor of Criminology at Manchester University, who is leading the study. "We want to identify risk factors [and] the pathways to homicide. Hopefully, in future we can intervene more effectively to prevent this lethal violence."

— Ian Burrell

CONTENTS

Leading stories	3	Features	19
News	4,8,10	Leader, letters	20
Fertility	5	Comment	21
Environment news	11	Obituaries	22
Food	12	Business	23-27
European news	14	Sport	28-32
Crime	15	Crossword	The Eye, 9
World news	16	Weather	The Eye, 10
Health	17	TV & Radio	The Eye, 11,12

PEOPLE

Rory and Wendy bring God up to date

Thora Hird and Harry Secombe they're not. Rory and Wendy Alec (above) are the shiny new faces of religious broadcasting. She looks like Fenella Fielding in *Carry on Screaming*, while he looks like a blow-dried member of Bucks Fizz. And yesterday the Alecs, a pair of South African charismatic Christians, launched a highly expensive publicity and advertising campaign for their brainchild: God The Christian Channel.

In the unlikely surroundings of Sir Terence Conran's swish Soho eatery Mezzo, the pair drew on a show-business past of singing in nightclubs to present a tape of Christian programmes for the MTV generation. Although reliant on United States televangelists, they are also trying to make Christian programmes hip by using up-to-date presentation techniques and marketing. They are even trying to trademark the word God.

"We hope to give material that is going to attract a generation that is never going to walk into a church," says Mrs Alec. "Most Christian television is extremely irrelevant and old-fashioned. It is aimed at the over 55s." Instead of importing 70 per cent of their output from American evangelists as they do now, the Alecs hope to start exporting programmes to the US.

Wendy Alec became a charismatic Christian after seeing the face of Jesus in a mirror in the lavatory of a nightclub she was singing in. She joined up with Rory while touring South Africa in a Christian group and the two decided to set up a Christian channel in Europe after a preacher prophesied that they would.

Two years ago they had just £140,000 in start up funds, two hours in the middle of the night on Astra and a pile of free tapes from American television evangelists. Now the channel costs almost £3m a year to run and they are producing seven hours of original programmes a week. God The Christian Channel is currently beamed into 22 million satellite and cable homes across Europe from the Astra satellite for seven hours a day. Next April it will go to 24 hours a day and when digital television launches the Alecs have a licence for six channels of Christian output. Also included will be a Christian shopping channel – for tapes and books, but not holy water.

Funding comes from the US television evangelists who pay to get access to a European audience and from a charity that viewers can make donations to. British regulations mean that they are not allowed to appeal for funds on air in the way that has made American evangelists rich. But they are benefiting from the growth in the charismatic movement in Britain.

— Paul McCann, Media Correspondent

Football coach wins her sex discrimination case

A football coach who claims she was denied a top qualification because she was a woman has won her sex-discrimination case against the Football Association. Vanessa Hardwick (pictured), 32, said yesterday that she had been awarded £5,000 for injury to her feelings.

"There could be more to follow because of things like potential loss of earnings, which have yet to be assessed," she said.

The FA said that it was very disappointed with the outcome of the tribunal and would appeal.

Ms Hardwick, a physical education teacher of Ickenham, north-west London, took action after failing to get her advanced coaching licence

last year. She claimed at London North industrial tribunal that leaders of a course at Lilleshall, Shropshire, made her feel out of place in "a world run by men for men".

"The course was physically and emotionally demanding and not being one of the boys - not being in with the innuendos - made it more intimidating and stressful," she said. "I suffered because I was assessed on my ability to play men's football in their style and not women's, which is vastly different, and that put me at a disadvantage." Yesterday she said the four-day hearing was "worth the hassle", adding that she was trying for the advanced coaching licence again. "My aim is to go to America and coach," she said.

Ms Hardwick was backed in the case by the Equal Opportunities Commission and National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers.

UPDATE

HEALTH

A calm mind makes for a healthy heart

Stress can damage the arteries as much as smoking or high levels of cholesterol, according to a study. But it is not the stress itself but how people cope with it that counts. United States researchers who studied 900 Finnish men found those who showed the most extreme response to mental stress tests had the thickest blockages in their carotid arteries – the vessels supplying blood to the brain. The researchers, from the University of Pittsburgh, monitored the men performing a series of stressful tasks adjusting the difficulty level so that no one got more than 60 per cent right. The findings, published in the American Heart Association journal *Circulation*, showed that those with the highest blood pressure had the thickest arteries.

— Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

MOTORING

Drivers misjudge drink-drive limit

Three in four motorists would support a reduction in the legal drink-drive limit, and 84 per cent of motorists believe police should enforce the drink-drive laws more rigorously, a new survey says. The findings, from motor insurance company Eagle Star, came as the Government launched its £2m Christmas crackdown on drinking drivers. Last week, the Government announced it was publicly consulting on lowering the drink-drive limit from 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood to 50mg. However, the survey said 44 per cent of motorists did not know the existing legal limit and 32 per cent who believed they knew the limits, dangerously underestimated them.

COMMUNICATION

Edinburgh serves rhubarb and fog

In the Plain Language Commission's annual awards, the top award, the Golden Rhubarb Trophy, went to the City of Edinburgh Council. Their letter to a local resident was described by Martin Cutts, research director of the commission, as a "fog of puzzling and pompous English". Runner-up was Scottish Amicable Investment Managers Ltd. for a 164-word sentence, couched in incomprehensible legalistic language. Northern Electric plc of Newcastle upon Tyne was a poor third for the "incredibly small print" of its conditions of supply, which Mr Cutts remarked were illegible "without a magnifying glass".

— Louise Hancock

TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.39	Italy (lira)	2,844
Austria (schillings)	20.34	Japan (yen)	213.53
Belgium (francs)	59.73	Malta (lira)	0.63
Canada ($)	2.33	Netherlands (guilders)	3.25
Cyprus (pounds)	0.84	Norway (kroner)	11.88
Denmark (kroner)	11.08	Portugal (escudos)	293.70
France (francs)	9.68	Spain (pesetas)	244.40
Germany (marks)	2.90	Sweden (kroner)	12.81
Greece (drachmei)	462.34	Switzerland (francs)	2.34
Hong Kong ($)	12.61	Turkey (lira)	316,969
Ireland (punts)	1.10	USA ($)	1.64

Source: Thomas Cook
Rates for indication purposes only

7.30 FOR 8 — by Chris Priestley

ZITS — by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

The best things in life are FREE!

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS D233
- INTEL PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR 233MHZ
- INTEL 440LX AGPSET
- 32MB SDRAM (EXTRA 32MB OR 56kbps MODEM FOR FREE)
- 512Kb INTERNAL CACHE
- 4.3GB ATA-33 HARD DRIVE
- STB VELOCITY nVIDIA AGP GRAPHICS CARD WITH 4MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY
- 17" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (0.28 DOT PITCH, 15.9" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- 14/32X CD-ROM DRIVE
- YAMAHA XG SOFTWARE WAVETABLE SOUND
- MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- WINDOWS 95
- MICROSOFT® OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION

£1,199 (£1,444.07) INC. DELIVERY & VAT

DELL

FREE EXTRA 32MB SDRAM OR 56kb/s MODEM* OFFER AVAILABLE UNTIL 8TH DECEMBER ONLY.

MMX intel inside pentium® II

This is the high performance business workhorse you've been waiting for. A feature rich Pentium II Processor based system with a massive kick - choose from either an extra 32MB SDRAM OR A 56kpbs MODEM FOR FREE! This offer is available until 8TH DECEMBER only. Don't let this one escape you!

*Additional free memory or modem is available only on the Dell Dimension XPS D233 system as specified here

GET ONLINE TO THE NUMBER ONE
0870 1524673
BETWEEN 8AM TO 8PM WEEKDAYS, 10AM TO 6PM SAT, 10AM TO 4PM SUN
To order online 24 hours: www.dell.com/uk

DELL®

هكذا من الأصل

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

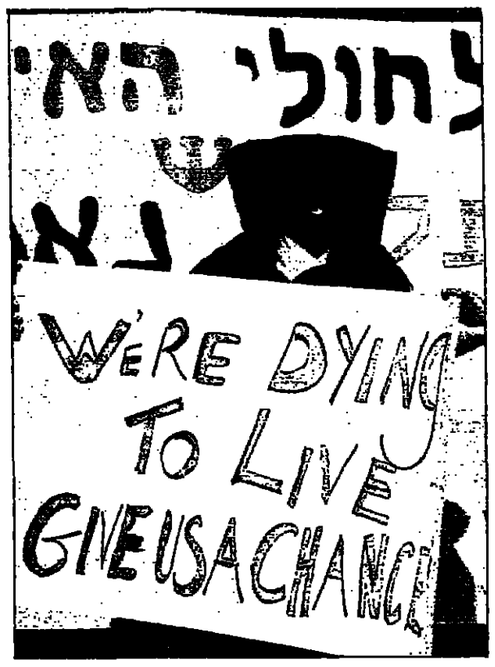
What does Chris Evans have in common with Degas?
THE EYE

The perennial charm of Peter Pan
FEATURES

Styled to kill: power dressing Bond style
CITY +

Moonlighting from the City
CITY +

Worlds Aids Day is marked around the world



Global issue: (clockwise from top left) A trumpeter in Madrid paying tribute to Spanish Aids victims; prostitutes and health workers marching in New Delhi to call for better medical facilities for the 3 to 5 million Indians estimated to be HIV positive; an Aids activist in Jerusalem protesting against the Israeli government's refusal to fund new research; the 'Celebration of Life' vigil in Green Park, central London; Kenyan orphans demonstrating in Nairobi; and free condoms being distributed in Bangkok
Photographs: AP, Reuters, and Peter Macdiarmid

One passenger, one bag: US airline risks all with in-flight restriction

Board a domestic flight in America and you know you have certain rights: You are entitled to eat nothing but peanuts and suffer considerable physical discomfort. Best of all, say *David Usborne* in New York and *Randeep Ramesh*, you are entitled to bruise, batter and fight other passengers for space in the overhead lockers.

It has been the problem no airline has been willing to acknowledge. Passengers flying within the United States have long been allowed to take two carry-on bags into the cabin. Now one carrier is saying enough is enough.

Starting last week, just in time for the Thanksgiving travel rush, Northwest Airlines took the startling and courageous step of limiting passengers to just one carry-on case, plus a hand-bag or a lap-top computer. Anything else, it has decreed, must be checked into the hold. This for travellers who have traditionally been able to carry as much in the cabin as Europeans can take in an aircraft's hold.

The response from the US public has not been a happy one. The old two-bag rule was already generous but it was also widely flouted. Nervous of surrendering cases to baggage systems that either chewed them or lost them, passengers routinely haul what looks like half their worldly goods straight to their seats.

Even if bags do survive the handlers, the simple matter of waiting 10 minutes at the baggage carousel at the end of a flight is anathema to a society that likes its service – whether it be eating in restaurants or buying by mail order – to be as close to instant as possible.

For British travellers, the service provided is determined by the price of your ticket. Fly on Concorde and take 12 kg of hand luggage. Pay an economy class fare and you can end up with a size limit and be allowed only 5kg.

The Association of Flight Attendants, which has been pushing for an end to the two-bag regime, recently reported that 4,000 passengers suffered injuries in North America last year because of items bursting forth from overstuffed overhead bins. Amongst the missiles were car batteries, birthday cakes, cases of wine and, on one occasion, a bloody yak leg, the attendants alleged.

The risk is greatest in the event of an emergency or crash landing. In one Canadian crash, "overhead bins collapse on top of people, injuring and trapping many of them". The debris blocked four of the aircraft's seven exits.

Airlines point out many of the passengers' requests border on the bizarre. One traveller on a recent British Airways flight tried to bring a Formula One wheel on board. Another instance in Lagos saw a man pass immigration and security counters carrying a complete exhaust assembly for a Mercedes car.

In Britain the problem is made worse by the huge shopping malls that tempt travellers at the airport. "What do you when a passenger has bought a 14 inch television from Dixons in the duty free?" asked Tony Mahood, BA's manager for customer service standards.

It may not be long before other US airlines follow the European model. Yesterday, United Airlines began testing a one-bag only rule on its flights out of Des Moines, Iowa. American Airlines has also signalled a desire to crack down on the carry-on crushes.

The Federal Aviation Authority, which oversees the US air industry, has said it is reluctant to issue regulations to govern what it says is a matter of "passenger behaviour". It has promised, however, to issue guidelines on carry-on limits and they are likely to be in Northwest's favour.

Curtain comes down on a jazz legend

Stephane Grappelli, the great jazz violinist, once said that he would go on playing until the "final curtain". Yesterday the performance ended. *Paul McConn* recalls a career that spanned Django Reinhardt and Nigel Kennedy.

The world's greatest living jazz violinist finally laid down his bow yesterday after a 70-year playing career, when he died in Paris at the age of 89. Grappelli died in a clinic where he had an operation for a hernia last week. The cause of death has not been disclosed.

Friends reported yesterday that he had been ill and in the clinic for some weeks, but had been playing his brand of swing jazz to audiences in Australia as recently as last summer – despite needing a wheelchair for the performance and oxygen when he came off stage. In September this year he accepted the Legion D'Honneur from President Chirac.

A slight stroke in 1993 forced Grappelli to cancel a series of gigs. In 1994, he had surgery to replace an artery in his neck, and that kept him off the stage for two months.

But his need to spread the music he loved was unstoppable: "I love to tour. I have to tour! I am like a shark; I won't stop," he once said. "I will play until the final curtain."

Lord Menuhin, speaking from Germany yesterday said: "He was perhaps the most beloved violinist and brought more joy to people than anybody else that I can think of in the string world."

Pete King, director of Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, said: "He has made a huge contribution to jazz. "He was an incredible player and a very melodic player whose music was so attractive to his listeners."

Grappelli and his partner in the Hot Club Quintet, gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt, broke the American dominance of jazz when they played to audiences across Europe in the 1930s, despite initial audience hostility.

Born in 1908, the son of a philosophy professor, Grappelli began his musical career at 15 as a pianist for silent films. He won a scholarship to the Isadora Duncan school and the Paris Conservatoire where he studied piano and violin.

After stints playing sax, accordion and drums he chose the violin, modestly saying later: "I chose the violin because there is not too much competition."

After being spotted by music critics in an orchestra in a Paris Hotel he and Reinhardt formed the Hot Club Quintet which went on to become the most influential and popular jazz band in Europe. They popularised the "swing" sound that formed the soundtrack to a million wartime romances.

After the war, he did not return to touring until the Sixties. Then he started his endless globetrotting, playing romantic tunes from the great writers of the jazz era: George Gershwin, Jerome Kern and Cole Porter.

Obituary, page 22

SIEMENS

هكذا من الأصل

Train firms 'put profits before safety'

Some private rail companies are failing to improve passenger safety because of the extra cost, according to a Health and Safety Executive report released yesterday. *Randeep Ramesh*, Transport Correspondent, reports on the potentially lethal practice of putting profits before safety.

Serious charges were levelled at the privatised rail network yesterday. Both Railtrack and the private train operators came under fire from safety inspectors.

Stan Robertson, the Chief Inspector of Railways, highlighted a number of instances where the HSE had to step in.

At a viaduct in Kent, Railtrack had refused to put up a fence to prevent people being showered by objects thrown from train windows. Railtrack appealed against HSE's intervention but had to back down.

A private train company wanted to use old slam door trains – criticised by the HSE – on InterCity trains which did not have central locking. The company said modifying the stock was not justified, now "fewer people were falling out of train doors". Unsurprisingly, the HSE did not accept this argument.

Some rail employers were even "misusing" the "risk assessment system" as a justification for reducing safety levels, the report added.

"The most common justification is that maintenance of the existing situation is too costly and thus is not reasonably practicable," said Mr Robertson. "It is a fact that managers now do not want to spend money where they feel they do not need to. I expect operators to go that extra step in the pursuit of safety rather than stop as soon as figures indicate that they appear to be justified in doing so."

The privatised railway network has seen an increasing number of managers who considered the present safety requirements as, according to one manager, "overly-stringent".

However, the HSE does not accept this. Mr Robertson said some railway managers thought they had nothing more to do once their safety plan – known as a safety case – had been approved.

In the foreword to the report, he went on: "Consequently, they take umbrage if a railway inspector asks for something to be modified to make it less dangerous. The reality is ... there will always be room for improvement."

Ministers responded to the report with harsh words. Gavin Strang, the transport minister, warned train operators not to put profits before safety. He said: "Profit must not be put before the wellbeing of staff and passengers, and operators should not take these broadly encouraging statistics as an excuse for complacency."

The statistics for the 12 months ending March 1997 revealed that arson was the cause of 64 per cent of passenger train fires: and there was a 53 per cent increase in trains running into obstructions deliberately placed on tracks. Fatalities, at 25, were the lowest ever, and only two people were killed after falling from carriages.

Onwards and upwards: Playtime at Pembury House — Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

After hours childcare solves missing link

Seven early-year centres around the country yesterday became the first to join a flagship Government scheme to end the divide between nursery schooling and childcare. *Lucy Ward*, Education Correspondent, visited one of the pioneering "one-stop shops."

For some of the three- and four-year-olds at Pembury House Centre for Childhood, in Haringey, north London, 3.15pm means home time. For others, the end of the school day signals a switch to play time, with songs, reading and rhymes and a snack in the hall until mum or dad arrives at 5.45pm to collect them.

The mix of care and education, launched at the start of this term, has already been seized on by parents in the deprived borough. The arrangement offers parents affordable and reliable childcare for an hour before school and two-and-a-half hours afterwards, allowing them time to work, study or search for a job.

Pembury House's efforts to bridge the gap between the needs of parents and children have impressed the Government. Jointly with a neighbouring centre, also run by Haringey and offering babycare, nursery and adult education, Pembury is one of seven centres named yesterday as "beacons of excellence" to spread primary ideas across early-years services.

The common factor linking each pilot scheme is an emphasis on integrating early education, childcare and family services to meet the needs of both children and parents, including those who work or bring up a family single-handed.

Pembury House, which also runs training for adults in childcare and playwork on site, has a history of adapting to parents' requirements.

The original building, thrown up in the Second World War, with an air raid shelter in the garden, provided nursery care for children whose mothers were busy with war work.

The present centre, housed in a bright, purpose-designed building, opened last year, will offer a holiday club for children, together with a parent and toddler club and talks for parents on child health and education.

So far, eight families use the before-and-after-school care, priced at £2.20 an hour, with concessions for those on benefits. Others say the option has freed them to look for work.

Mix-up blamed for 'CJD transplants'

An administrative mix-up was yesterday being blamed for three people receiving corneas from a woman who had Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

Two men and a woman, from Wolverhampton, Liverpool and Manchester, were told that they have received the corneas – the surface of the eye – from a woman who had CJD, as it was confirmed that the disease can be transmitted by that route.

The patients' identities were not revealed, but Dr Andrew Tullo of the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital said the operations had been carried out earlier this year. The donor, Marion Hamilton, died aged 53 in Stirlingshire from lung cancer, and was then found to have CJD during a post-mortem. The UK Transplant Support Service Authority (UKTSSA), which runs the eye bank at the hospital, was not told until last month.

The Scottish Office was yesterday preparing a report on the case, which was being blamed on a "breakdown in communication" between the different organisations. A helpline for concerned patients has been set up on 0161 276 8500.

Luxor body search

The search for the missing body of a British tourist killed in the Luxor massacre was last night concentrating on Colombia.

The assistant deputy West Yorkshire coroner James Turnbull said he had been told that the body of Karina Turner, from West Yorkshire was not in Japan, Switzerland, Bulgaria or Germany. The only other country where bodies were sent after the massacre was Colombia.

The body of Karina's mother, Joan, 53, had wrongly been sent to Switzerland.

Turner art protest

The four finalists of the Turner Prize and other artists, including Damien Hirst and Bridget Riley, will present a petition to the Government today protesting at the introduction of museum charges.

Their protest comes on the day that the winner of the Turner Prize is to be announced. The modern art prize has an all-female short-list for the first time. Angela Bulloch, Gillian Wearing, Cornelia Parker and Christine Borland will hand in the petition to Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

— Kate Watson-Smyth

MINOLTA

A watertight case for the Vectis 25.

Few cameras can stand up to a sudden downpour or take kindly to a poolside splashing.

The Vectis 25 will, however. It resists water like a duck's back, so you can take it with you to places few cameras have dared to go before.

And you won't feel weighed down carrying it there either.

Being little bigger than an audio cassette, it can easily be slipped straight into your pocket or your handbag.

And when you're ready to take a picture you will have all the advantages of the new Advanced Photo System to make life simple.

Real mind blowing technology.

Remember when it took an age just to load a film? Well, with the Vectis 25, it takes just seconds.

Unique zoom lens design.

You simply open the film chamber, drop in the film, and you're all set to start shooting. You're even given a choice of three photo formats, so you can pick the one that best suits the subject you see in your viewfinder.

Nothing could be more straightforward, nor more rewarding.

Especially as Minolta's exclusive 4-element, 4 group lens design, with 4 aspheric lens surfaces, has been incorporated into the Vectis 25. Offering you 2.5x zoom ratio. Exactly what you need to get great results.

In fact, with the Vectis 25 you'll never have to keep your fingers crossed, ever.

This new technology virtually guarantees it.

Getting in the right mode for the shot.

No matter what you're shooting you can set the camera so that you're sure to get it right every time.

In Auto Mode all the camera functions operate automatically. So whether you're taking a landscape or a close-up this will take total care of the technical side.

You simply concentrate on the composition.

But should you prefer to be more creative, with the Vectis 25 you can select precisely the right programme to suit the subject.

In Portrait Mode the lens automatically zooms to give you 'waist up' framing.

Set it to 'Close-Up' and you can be in as close as 40cm to your subject. Decide on Night Portrait Mode and you're able to make the very most of bright background highlights.

And if you switch to Landscape Mode you're able to take sharper landscape and night scene photographs.

Then there's the built in auto-flash which also offers you a choice of modes: 'Fill-in Flash', Flash Cancel and Red-Eye Reduction.

Exactly the right specs for glasses.

The Vectis 25 has a feature especially helpful for those who wear glasses.

Called the Long Eye Relief Viewfinder it makes viewing and framing more easy and comfortable. The entire subject image can be seen in the viewfinder, even with the camera held up to an inch away from your eye.

And, we should add, there are a couple of advantages you enjoy after you've taken your pictures.

From 30mm

to 50mm

to 75mm Zoom

When you get your pictures back you will receive an Index Print; a sheet containing positives of all the pictures on your roll. So you are able to see every picture you took clearly on one print.

The Vectis 25 also offers a totally new dimension to your picture-taking. Called Select Title Backprinting, it enables you to record on the back of your picture any one of thirty pre-set messages, for example 'Happy Birthday'.

And what's more, you can do it in any one of twelve languages.

It will even record for you the exact time and date your pictures were taken.

What more could one possibly ask of a camera, except possibly its price? And that, amazingly, is just £199.99.

Vectis 10

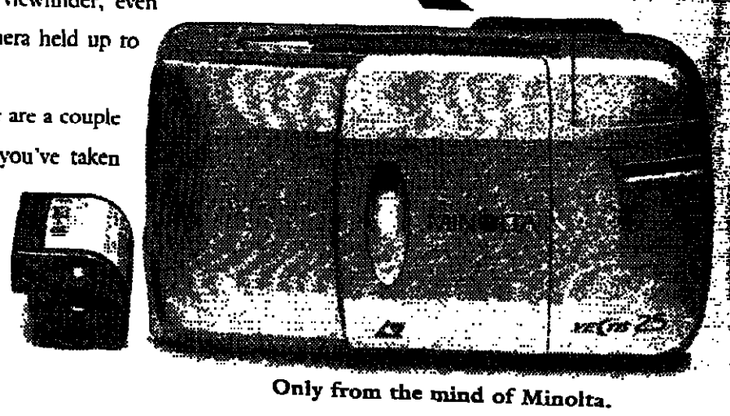
Vectis 20

Vectis 25

Vectis 30

Vectis 40

VECTIS



The Vectis 25 is one of a range of 12 Advanced Photo System cameras from £69.99 to £499.99.
Minolta (UK) Limited, Precedent Drive, Rooksley, Milton Keynes, MK13 8HF.

Only from the mind of Minolta.

How clinics rate in births league

One test-tube baby clinic had a zero success rate last year. In another, almost 30 per cent of treatments resulted in a live birth. *Jeremy Laurance*, Health Editor, examines the reasons for the gulf between the best and the worst.

Couples seeking *in vitro* fertilisation can dramatically increase their chances of having a baby by choosing the right clinic in which to have treatment.

Official figures published yesterday show that the best clinics are continuing to improve their success rates while the poorest are getting worse. They provide the clearest evidence of the enormous variation in the quality of treatment that applies across the medical spectrum.

Last year, only one clinic had a live birth rate below 5 per cent and none scored more than 25 per cent. This year three scored more than 25 per cent, better than the monthly success rate for couples conceiving naturally, and three dropped below 5 per cent. The average live birth rate for all clinics was 15.1 per cent.

The figures, published today by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority in its *Patients' Guide*, show a zero live birth rate for the first time – at the Reproductive Medicine Unit in Withington Hospital, part of South Manchester NHS Trust.

The clinic, which also came bottom of last year's table, treated 54 patients and had only one live birth. This was not counted because it was from a frozen embryo which is excluded under the system for compiling the figures in order to ensure the results for all clinics are comparable.

The top performing clinics are achieving their success at a price. The *Guide*, which covers the period April 1995 to March 1996, shows that many clinics are now routinely using three embryos in each treatment, the maximum permitted under the regulations, increasing the risk of a multiple birth. The proportion of twin and triplet births is about twice as high in the best performers compared with the rest.

One exception to this rule is the Assisted Conception Clinic at the Royal United Hospital, Bath, described as "seriously good" by one insider, where more than half the treatments involved the transfer of only two embryos. The remaining four clinics among the top five used only two embryos in less than 20 per cent of treatments.

Nationally almost a third of births by *in vitro* fertilisation are of twins, triplets or quadruplets which carry an increased risk of complications and can impose emotional and financial pressure on parents. Ruth Deech, chairwoman of the authority, said last month that the multiple birth rate would be kept under "active consideration."

Yesterday, Mrs Deech said: "The main factors that determine the chances of a successful outcome are the age of the woman, the length of time the couple has been trying to have a family, previous ability to conceive, and the quality of the sperm. If couples are in a position to choose, they should obtain information from a number of clinics and then decide which one best meets their needs."

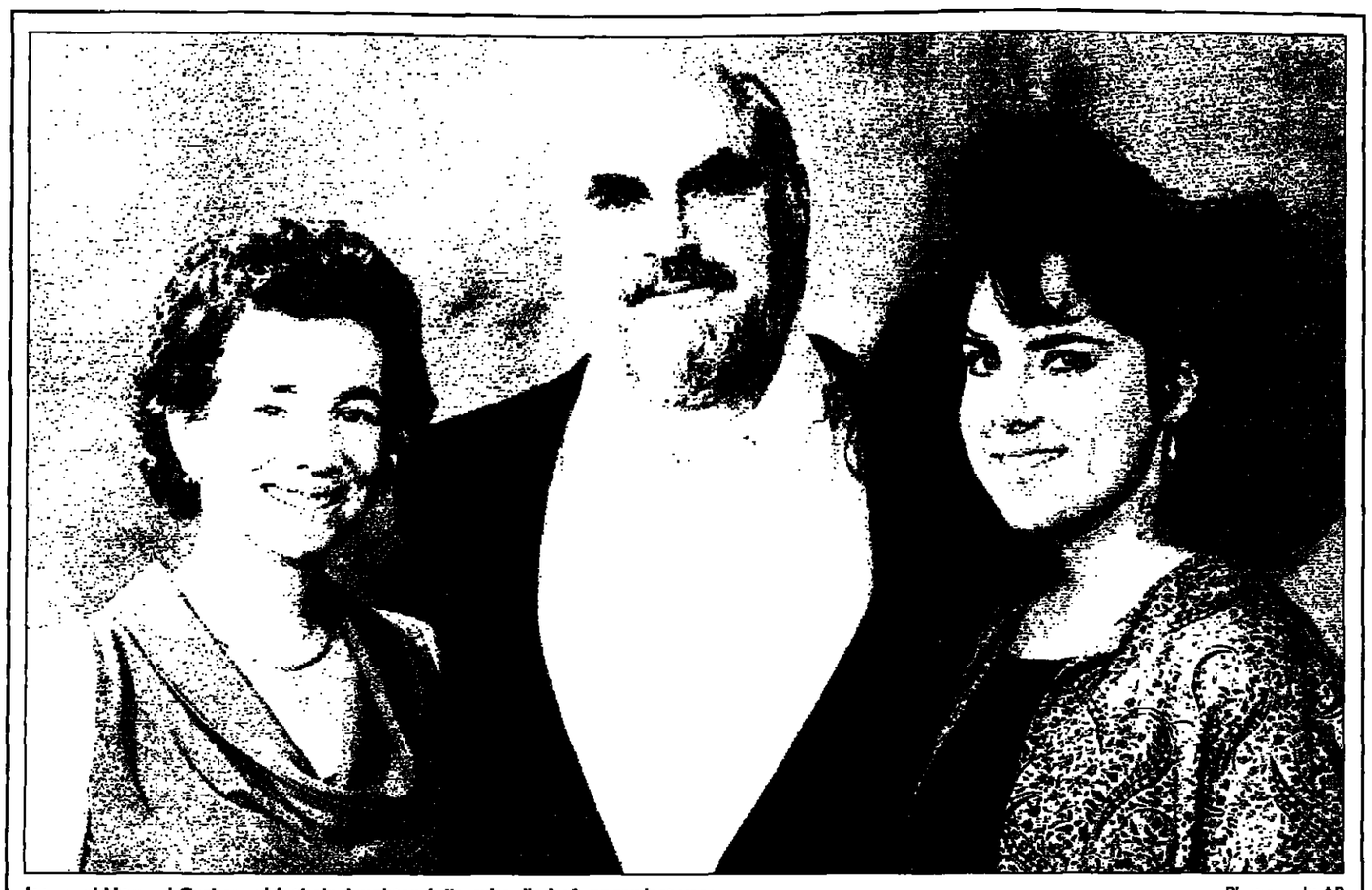
• *The Patients' Guide is available free from the HFEA, Paxton House, 30 Artillery Lane, London E1 7LS.*

FIVE BEST PERFORMERS

	Live birth rate per egg collection (per cent)	Treatment cycles (number)
Welbeck Clinic, London W1	29.7	74
Lister Hospital, London SW1	25.8	981
Royal United Hospital, Bath	25.7	143
Nurture, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham	24.3	853
Holly House Hospital, Essex	23.7	278

FIVE WORST PERFORMERS

South Manchester NHS Trust	0	54
Newham General Hospital, London	1.8	51
Hope Hospital, Salford	2.6	99
Cromwell Hospital, London SW5	7.5	388
Singleton Hospital, Swansea	8.3	68



Jean and Howard Garber, with their daughter, Julie, who died of cancer last year — Photograph: AP

Unease grows about baby from beyond the grave

Thanksgiving gave one California couple especially happy news: a new grandchild may be on the way. But, as *David Usborne* explains, this baby is already generating controversy because its mother is no longer alive.

For Howard and Jean Garber, it is more than just the happy news that prospective grandparents have enjoyed the world over. It is also consolation for the loss they suffered twelve months ago: the death of their daughter, Julie.

Their happiness is being marred, however, by the public storm that is suddenly enveloping them. The grandchild they are expecting will be Julie's, carried by a surrogate mother who agreed to be host to eggs that were taken from Julie while she was still living, fertilised and then frozen.

The Garbers, who live in Anaheim, confirmed yesterday that the surrogate mother, named only as Tracy, tested positive at the weekend after being implanted with the final batch of the eggs last Thursday. "The doctors have told us to be cautious, but the results were good," Mr Garber said yesterday.

As they celebrate, the Garbers are facing allegations that the unusual procedure is distasteful at best, if not unethical. Critics are accusing them of arranging for Julie to give birth from beyond the grave in a selfish effort to duplicate the daughter they lost to illness.

The extraordinary story began in 1992, when Julie Garber was diagnosed with a tumour on her brain stem. She survived risky brain surgery. Later, however, she was diagnosed with leukaemia and once again hospitalised. It was during a course of chemotherapy that Julie apparently realised that she may die without having had the chance to bear a child. Before dying, she arranged to have eggs harvested from her, fertilised and put in cold storage.

After Julie's death, it was up to Howard and Jean to seek out a surrogate as well as a specialist who would be willing to oversee the unorthodox procedure. They at first met a brick wall, as specialist after specialist refused, saying the Garbers were attempt to recreate their daughter.

They found Tracy through a newspaper advertisement and agreed to pay her £10,000 to bear their grandchild. Early attempts to plant the eggs failed. This weekend, however, brought news that a child may be on the way.

An unrepentant Howard Garber yesterday hit back at the critics. "Those who oppose this ought to concentrate on the millions of babies that are coming into this world through careless means, who are unloved, uncared for and essentially thrown in the trash bin," he said.

Mr Garber, who anchors a cable television show on ethics and morals, added indignantly: "Our grandchild will be wanted, loved and looked after in an appropriate environment. This baby in every way will be our grandchild."

If the pregnancy proceeds normally and the baby is indeed born, it will be raised by a son of the Garbers, Ron, and his wife.

Mrs Garber says that she is only following the instructions that Julie left her before dying. "Mum, I want you to have a direct role in raising my child. I promised her and I did not make that promise lightly," she said.

Who says you can't predict the future?

The Millennium Bond

14.40%
gross rate after two years

There's no such thing as an uncertain future with a NatWest Millennium Bond. That's because our attractive interest rates are fixed from the start, so your money is guaranteed to keep on growing.

Whatever your dream – the trip of a lifetime, a day your family will remember forever or giving someone special a head start in life – a NatWest Millennium Bond could help you make it come true.

You can choose to receive your interest monthly* or annually. Alternatively, you can let your savings accumulate over the full two year term of the bond for a return even higher than the figure above. Whether you want to save from £2,000 to £250,000, the NatWest Millennium Bond is for you.

If you'd like more information, call us now or pop into your local NatWest branch. The sooner you do, the sooner you can stop dreaming.

Call 0800 200 400
MON TO FRI 8.00am TO 8.00pm SAT 9.00am TO 6.00pm

NatWest
More than just a bank

Where appropriate, lower rate tax (currently 20%) will be deducted at source from the interest paid (which may be reclaimed by resident non-taxpayers). Otherwise, the example above [illegible] the required registration form), interest will be paid gross. The gross rate is the rate before deducting income tax. All rates are subject to variation but are fixed from when you take out the bond. If you take interest monthly the rate will be lower. The interest rate quoted will apply only if no withdrawals are made within the term of the bond. We may monitor and record your phone calls with us in order to maintain and improve our service. National Westminster Bank Plc, Registered Office: 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP. Registered Number: 929027. [illegible]

RAILPLANNER.
THE SECOND BEST STOCKING~FILLER IN THE WORLD.

For planning each and every leg of even the most complicated rail journey, the aptly named RailPlanner is a major step forward. Using either a lap top or desk top, you simply tap in your requirements, click the mouse, and within seconds you'll have the optimum route to your destination, including train times, connections, a map of all calling points, and journey alternatives.

It'll even tell you if you need to reserve, and if refreshments are available on board.

At only £29.95*, RailPlanner is ideal for business or pleasure - in fact, anyone who travels by train here in the UK or to Europe on Eurostar.

To be sure of receiving your RailPlanner before Christmas, please order before 15/12/97. So leg-it to a 'phone now and call our 24 hour Hotline on **08707 41 51 61.**

Alternatively, clip out the coupon.

Please send me more information on RailPlanner. I am interested in it for:
Business Travel ☐ Personal Travel ☐
Name:
Title:
Address:
Postcode:
Tel (w): Tel (h):

RAIL PLANNER

RailPlanner Sales, PO Box 239, Bromley BR2 9ZT

[illegible] Winter 97 and Summer 98 Timetables. VAT and delivery in the UK and Northern Ireland only. [illegible] multi-user and corporate formats. For more information on these call 08707 44 44 44.

Beginning of the end for first past the post

The first step was taken last night towards ending the current first-past-the-post system of electing MPs to the Commons. *Anthony Bevins*, Political Editor, examines the potential for a quiet revolution.

Paddy Ashdown last night welcomed the establishment of a high-powered, independent commission to find a different, broadly proportional, voting system.

"This announcement marks a truly historic moment in British democratic history," the Liberal Democrat leader said in a statement issued after a meeting of the joint Lab-Lib Cabinet Committee.

The Prime Minister's spokesman said that Tony Blair had not changed his mind on the issue: he remained "unpersuaded", but felt that it was right, in line with Labour's manifesto commitment to giving the voters a choice as to whether they wanted a change.

That choice would be offered through a referendum, expected to take place before the next election, on the proposals that come from the commission.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said in a Commons written reply that the commission, which is expected to report back by the end of next year, would be chaired, as expected, by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the former Labour Cabinet minister and leader of the old Social Democratic Party.

He will have four eminent colleagues: Lord Alexander of Weedon, a Tory peer who is also chairman of the National Westminster Bank; Sir John Chilcot, the outgoing permanent secretary at the Northern Ireland Office; Lady Gould, Labour's former director of organisation; and David Lipsey, an *Economist* journalist, who was a member of James Callaghan's staff in 1977-79.

Outlining the terms of reference for the commission, agreed to the complete satisfaction of the Liberal Democrats, Mr Straw said it would be free to produce "any appropriate system or combination of systems in recommending an alternative to the present system for parliamentary elections to be put before the people in the Government's referendum.

"The commission shall observe the requirement for broad proportionality, the need for stable government, an extension of voter choice and the maintenance of a link between MPs and geographical constituencies."

Bob Maclennan, the Liberal Democrat's constitutional spokesman, said his party's favoured system, the single transferable vote, would fulfil all those tests, but it is just as likely that the commission will produce a mix-and-match of the alternative vote and the additional member system that could attract a greater consensus of support across Labour and the Liberal Democrat parties.

Under the alternative vote system, constituencies remain as they are, but electors cast their votes by putting first, second, third and other preferences for candidates, and the candidate who eventually gets more than half of votes cast, or redistributed, is elected.

The alternative vote is not a proportional system, but it could be made "broadly" proportional with an injection of the additional member system, under which electors have two votes, one for a constituency member, and another for a "top-up" candidate from a party list.

Under the single transferable vote, constituencies are enlarged to return up to five MPs, and voters are able to mark preferences for all candidates; the system used in the Republic of Ireland.

Mo Mowlam at a press conference yesterday when she outlined the limits of the proposed new north-south bodies' powers Photograph: Rui Xavier

Irish Foreign Minister forced to eat his words

The Irish Foreign Minister, David Andrews, yesterday withdrew comments on Northern Ireland's future which had upset Unionists, and promised not to repeat them.

It was a rare act of political contrition which followed Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble's call for Mr Andrews' resignation after he spoke of proposed new north-south institutions having powers "not unlike a government". A meeting between the minister and Unionists yesterday was variously described as brutal, bruising and nasty. The minister's words had touched on one of the most sensitive issues in the peace process.

It is widely expected that north-south structures will form part of any new Anglo-Irish arrangements, but the question of their exact role and powers is being hotly contested. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam, said yesterday: "There are likely to be north-south structures with real responsibility but which are accountable to government institutions in Northern Ireland and the Republic."

The terms used by Mr Andrews clearly went far beyond arrangements laid out in this carefully-worded description, and as such they sparked Unionist concern. Unionist sensitivities had already been touched by the announcement that Gerry Adams is to meet Tony Blair in Downing Street before Christmas.

While yesterday's turbulence does not appear to threaten the future of the talks, it was seen as a setback for the new relationship which is tentatively being built between Mr Trimble and the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern.

Councils warned of cash threat to services

Council tax increases and service cuts are threatened by a £1.6bn hole in next year's local authority accounts, the Liberal Democrats warned yesterday. *Anthony Bevins*, Political Editor, tracks a town hall crisis.

Today's Commons statement on local government spending for 1998-99 could leave schools with a £200m shortfall on basic educational provision. Paul Burstow, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on local government, warned yesterday.

The Government has made additional provision of £835m for schools and the education budget, but Mr Burstow said that no allowance had been made for inflation – estimated at 2.75 per cent.

The Liberal Democrats calculate that about £3.5m cuts will have to be found in Oxfordshire, for example – which could mean the loss of nearly 300 teaching posts, or the closure of the Banbury Teachers' Centre, or closure of the music service, with 116 redundancies.

Mr Burstow warned that local authorities would only be able to provide extra money for schools if they were willing to make more drastic savings elsewhere – such as, the police, fire, social services and roads budgets. But his analysis showed that police and fire budgets were already heading for a £250m shortfall; environment and protective services, for a shortfall of £545m; and social services, a shortfall of £644m.

Those estimates, provided by the Labour-led Local Government Association, could mean severe service cuts for the elderly and disabled, people in need of community care, child protection and those covered by asylum and immigration laws.

According to a Liberal Democrat briefing paper, "Seven out of ten authorities will have to tighten eligibility criteria for service provision ... six out of ten will have to increase charges for such services above the rate of inflation, while four out of ten will have to charge for services previously provided free".

Mr Burstow said: "Tomorrow, the Labour Government has its first chance to show that they are no longer willing to make council taxpayers pay more for less. However, all the signs are that Labour will not provide the cash needed to cover for their increased inflation forecasts, and will expect councils to slash police, fire and care services in order to fund even stand-still budgets for schools ... Any cuts on Tuesday will be Labour cuts – they will not be able to pin new cuts on the Conservatives."

Shy benefits rebels make way for 'Tone's clones'

A predicted Commons rebellion over cuts in lone parents' benefits failed to materialise last night as unhappy backbenchers stayed away. *Fran Abrams*, **Political Correspondent, watched as loyal Labour MPs queued up to support the Government line.**

Labour rebels stayed away in droves from yesterday's debate on benefits and welfare reform. Instead, the benches were packed with eager, newly-elected MPs anxious to win Brownie points from party whips.

Earlier in the day, Downing Street had ruled out suggestions that it might delay the implementation of the cuts, clearly relishing the opportunity to display strength in the face of left-wing protests.

There could still be a rebellion when the Government's measures are put to the vote next Wednesday. But last night's Conservative motion attacking ministers for implementing the previous government's cuts won no support from Labour.

At times, the lack of opposition on the Labour side was almost comical. "Tone's clones" rose one after another to support the Government until the shadow social security spokesman, Iain Duncan Smith, accused the whips of having orchestrated their efforts.

There were even claims that Ken Livingstone, a vocal opponent of the changes, had phoned to say he would have been present but had twisted his ankle on the Tube, though these could not be confirmed. Others simply went missing without explanation.

Among the new Labour recruits who packed the chamber to back the beleaguered Secretary of State for Social Security, Harriet Harman, was Caroline Flint, MP for Don Valley.

"I am very proud that new Labour is beginning to prioritise work over welfare, opportunity over waste. This government will face up to the growing numbers of women who need and want to work," she said.

A stream of others were anxious to intervene during Mr Duncan Smith's speech, each apparently armed by the whips with a piece of information on his earlier pronouncements on welfare or on the Conservative government's record.

Mr Duncan Smith accused Helen Brinton, the ultra-loyal MP for Peterborough, of having been given an "intervention list" by the whips.

When in opposition, Labour front benchers had gone around the country making wild promises, including pledges to reverse lone parent benefit cuts, and they should now be held to account, he argued.

"It wasn't so much a case of a wet Wednesday in Dudley as a UK-wide programme of empty promises seven days a week. No wonder the backbenchers have smelt a rat," he said.

The only dissent on the government side came from the left-winger, Dennis Skinner.

"Some lone parents don't want to work. They want to look after their children and therefore should not be penalised because they take that honourable stance," he said.

Ms Harman announced a conference to be held next month on a national childcare strategy – a measure which appeared to have been hastily arranged, as no date or venue had been fixed for the event.

"Too many lone mothers have been written off to a life of dependency on income support. Lone mothers want to work for the same reason as married women work – for a better standard of living for their children," she said.

The only opposition came from the Liberal Democrats. Their spokesman, David Rendel, said the Government could afford to reverse the cuts.

The Government won the vote by 336 to 131.

Driving force: Harriet Harman arriving at the House of Commons for yesterday's debate on welfare reform Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

PCC can be sued over privacy

The Press Complaints Commission is to lobby the Government to exclude newspapers from provisions of the Bill to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law.

It follows confirmation yesterday from Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, that the Bill, as drafted, will allow individuals to take the PCC to court to protect their privacy.

Lord Irvine said new legal opinion had changed his previous assumption that the organisation would not be covered by the Bill as a public authority.

"It is possible that the PCC will be held to be a 'public authority' under the Human Rights Bill when it becomes law," he said in a statement.

"I had earlier thought that it probably would not, but an opinion given to the PCC by David Pannick QC persuaded me that it probably will be."

This means that claimants who believe that their right to privacy has been breached by the press will be able to take the PCC to court for failing to protect them.

Lord Irvine said that it should be welcomed by the press – although he warned that the PCC would have to develop tougher powers to curb newspapers that infringed the Convention.

In particular, he suggested that could include the power to order payment of compensation to claimants whose privacy was breached. "This is good news for the press, because the courts will regard the PCC as the primary body to provide effective protection to people who suffer from press abuses," he said.

"Provided, therefore, that self regulation is strong and effective the courts will not intervene with injunctions."

— Michael Streeter
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Jowell gears up for round three in Formula One tobacco advertising battle

Tessa Jowell, public health minister, will today face her third grilling by MPs over Formula One's exclusion from an EU ban on tobacco advertising. *Colin Brown*, **Chief Political Correspondent, reports she has new figures to support her case.**

Tessa Jowell will be on the defensive today when she is challenged by MPs over Britain's demand that Formula One should be given permanent exclusion from the EU ban.

The public health minister will be going to the European Council on Thursday facing criticism that she risks wrecking a European-wide deal by holding out for the exclusion of F1. Last week Labour MPs joined in attacking the policy, and have summoned her to face fresh questioning today. Two committees said claims that 50,000 jobs would be lost were exaggerated.

Ms Jowell is expected on Thursday to offer a compromise to accept a ban on tobacco sponsorship of motor racing but delay it for ten years.

The select committees for health and European legislation both said it should be treated like other sports, which are faced with a ban in four to five years. She is unlikely to set out Britain's negotiating position before the EU meeting.

Some Tory MPs were preparing to accuse her of breaking Commons rules today by failing to deliver a memorandum on the cost of implementing a ban. But Whitehall sources said she would be going to the committee armed with a new paper, setting out the costs to different sections of industry, including the billboard hoarding trade, of complying with an EU ban.

Ms Jowell vehemently denied allegations last week that Tony Blair bowed to the pressure from the motor racing lobby after the party received a donation of £1m from Bernie Ecclestone, the head of F1. But the Government was forced to announce that the party was returning the donation to avoid further embarrassment.

She has been called back by the European legislation committee to face further cross-examination because MPs were dissatisfied with her replies.

Some of the questioning by Labour MPs was the most hostile faced by a minister from her own side since the election. At the hearing of the health committee, Ms Jowell was told she was "defending the indefensible". Audrey Wise, the Labour MP, said the motor racing industry was getting its way because of its influence.

The health committee in its report also reminded Ms Jowell that as one of its members she had signed up to a report criticising the Tory Government over tobacco advertising.

01582 700059
www.easyjet.com
NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW
Geneva from £59
London Luton to
Amsterdam from £39
Barcelona from £49†
Nice from £49†
Palma de Mallorca from £59
Edinburgh from £39
Aberdeen from £39
Inverness from £39
Glasgow from £39
Liverpool to
Amsterdam from £45
Nice from £49†
easyJet
Call 01582 700 059 anytime
†£49 fare valid until 15/12/97 and after 8/1/98 until 28/2/98
All fares single and include an unfair £10 Government Tax.
Airport Tax should be a % of the fare!
All sectors between London Blackfriars and Luton Airport £6.90

1997 'Top Direct Lender Over Two Years' – What Mortgage Magazine.
NO arrangement fees, valuation fees, mortgage indemnity fees, early redemption penalties.
wonder other mortgage lenders are worried.

* Mortgage example of £80,000 repayable over 25 years (300 monthly payments).

Lender	APR (Variable)	Monthly Repayments (after tax relief)	Monthly saving with Direct Line	Total Payable (gross)
WOOLWICH	9.0%	£617.80	£49.33	£195,286
HALIFAX	9.0%	£617.01	£48.54	£195,521
ALLIANCE & LEICESTER	9.0%	£617.01	£48.54	£195,372
DIRECT LINE	7.8%	£568.47	–	£178,258

APRs based on Standard Variable Rate Repayment mortgages, correct at 17th November 1997. Source: Moneyfacts. MIRAS has been calculated under current tax legislation which may alter.

- They should be, because not one of these mortgage lenders can compete with Direct Line.
- As the table shows our variable rate mortgage could save you almost £50* per month
- No legal fees if you transfer your mortgage without moving house†.
- We refund your valuation costs.
- No arrangement, mortgage indemnity or early redemption fees.
- You can borrow up to 90% of the value of your home.
- We guarantee to save you 20%†† on your existing buildings insurance.
- No reason to call anyone else then when you can call Direct Line.

DIRECT LINE MORTGAGES
0181 649 9099 LONDON
0161 831 9099 MANCHESTER
0141 221 9099 GLASGOW
CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. IND164
www.directline.co.uk
Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SH

You must be aged 18 to 62. Subject to status. Security required. Written quotations on request. Standard valuation fee will be refunded when the mortgage is set up. †Legal fees paid if mortgage on existing home is transferred using Direct Line solicitors package. If own solicitor used and the fees amount to more than £300, Direct Line will pay the excess up to a maximum of £200. Offer may be withdrawn at any time. Some mortgages may require payment of a fee to the existing lender when being transferred. ††The guaranteed insurance saving only applies if your current insurance is arranged with your lender and is subject to our normal underwriting criteria and corresponding levels of cover. Calls recorded and randomly monitored. Direct Line and the red phone on wheels are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc, used with its permission. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Sell, sell: Staff at Selfridges in London yesterday arranging Teletubbies dolls for sale before an expected rush of shoppers Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Law reform leads to rough justice fears

An obscure clause tacked onto the Criminal Procedure Act last year will have the effect of stopping investigations into miscarriages of justice. *Paul McCann*, Media Correspondent, asks if a measure aimed at paedophiles will end up keeping the innocent behind bars.

Lawyers, journalists and programmes like *Trial and Error* which investigate miscarriages of justice are threatened by a new law which makes disclosing the evidence from a court case a contempt of court.

The Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act, which became law last year, was created to change the rules covering the disclosure of police evidence to defence counsel in criminal trials. Clause 17 of the Act now makes all the material given to the defence confidential to the case. To disclose it to outside parties is now a contempt of court.

"I am very, very concerned that this will close us down," says David Jessel, the broadcaster and veteran investigator of miscarriages of justice. "When we do investigations it is through a thorough reading of the disclosed material that we can build our case. Now we are not going to be able to do that."

Jim Nichol, the solicitor who fought to get the Bridgewater Three released, is seeking a barristers' opinion on the new law and plans to ask for a meeting with the Home Secretary.

"This could be the end of investigative journalism into convictions," said Mr Nichol. "And it slipped through without anyone fighting it."

The Act lifts confidentiality on material used in open court, but Mr Nichol believes this is inadequate for reopening an investigation. "You very seldom see any material in open courts, you hear evidence, you don't see full statements, you don't see fingerprints or all the other material we get in evidence.

"This law now makes it an offence for a prisoner to send me his case files so that I can look into his case. If I read those files I'm committing an offence."

The clause was included in the Act at a late stage in its passage through Parliament because of concerns about paedophiles using sexually explicit evidence from their cases as pornography. Stories in the press indicated that some of the material was being exchanged with other convicted paedophiles.

It was also intended to prevent prisoners using the material to blackmail witnesses and other defendants.

The Act allows for a prisoner to apply to a court to be able to release his evidence, but Mr Nichol believes this just adds another barrier to overturning miscarriages of justice: "These cases only get reopened because prisoners circulate their evidence to whoever will look, to see if someone will take it up. It is impossible to take up a prisoner's case and go through the process if you haven't seen all the evidence."

Without access to court documents, programmes like *Rough Justice*, *World in Action* and *Trial and Error* would never have overturned the cases against the Guildford Four and the Bridgewater Three.

Diabetes drug withdrawn

A drug for diabetes taken by 5,000 people in the UK was withdrawn yesterday after being linked with the deaths of six people in the United States and Japan.

The drug, troglitazone (brand name Romozin), was launched two months ago as a new treatment for type-2 diabetes, which accounts for more than one million of the 1.4 million cases of diabetes in Britain.

Glaxo Wellcome, which markets the drug in the UK, said there had been 130 cases of liver damage reported worldwide among the 370,000 patients who had been taking the drug for more than three months. All had occurred, along with the six deaths from liver failure, in the US and Japan. The company said it was voluntarily withdrawing the drug while it examined the data.

The problem emerged a month ago, when Glaxo Wellcome wrote to all doctors advising a liver function test for all new patients being prescribed the drug. Simon O'Neil, of the British Diabetic Association, said there had to be a balance between risks and benefits, and the company had acted promptly on the reports of side effects. "Their decision to withdraw it now is probably wise," he said.

The association said patients should continue to take their medication to control their diabetes, but should see their own doctors as soon as possible to arrange alternative treatment. Worried patients can obtain information from the BDA Careline on 0171 636 6112.

— Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

Al Fayed to challenge plans for phone mast near estate

Mohamed Al Fayed, owner of Harrods, has won permission to challenge plans to erect a 22m-high mast for mobile phones near his estate at Oxted, Surrey.

A High Court judge yesterday gave him leave to seek judicial review on the grounds that the go-ahead for the tower, which will have six antennae and four dishes, was "unlawful, null and void and of no effect".

His QC Ian Croxford argued that objections based on a risk health were never properly put before Tandridge District Council before it granted planning permission in July to Mercury Personal Communications. Mr Justice Moses ruled there was "an arguable case" which should go to a full hearing. But he refused to make a court order banning the erection of the mast before the hearing, expected to be in six to 12 months' time.

After yesterday's hearing, Mr Al Fayed's solicitor, Alan Meyer, said the judge's decision would provide an opportunity to air growing world-wide concern about the possible risk to human health from exposure to low frequency radio waves from mobile phone masts.

DAILY POEM

Adlestrop

by Edward Thomas

Yes. I remember Adlestrop –
The name, because one afternoon
Of heat the express-train drew up there
Unwontedly. It was late June.

The steam hissed. Someone cleared his throat.
No one left and no one came
On the bare platform. What I saw
Was Adlestrop – only the name

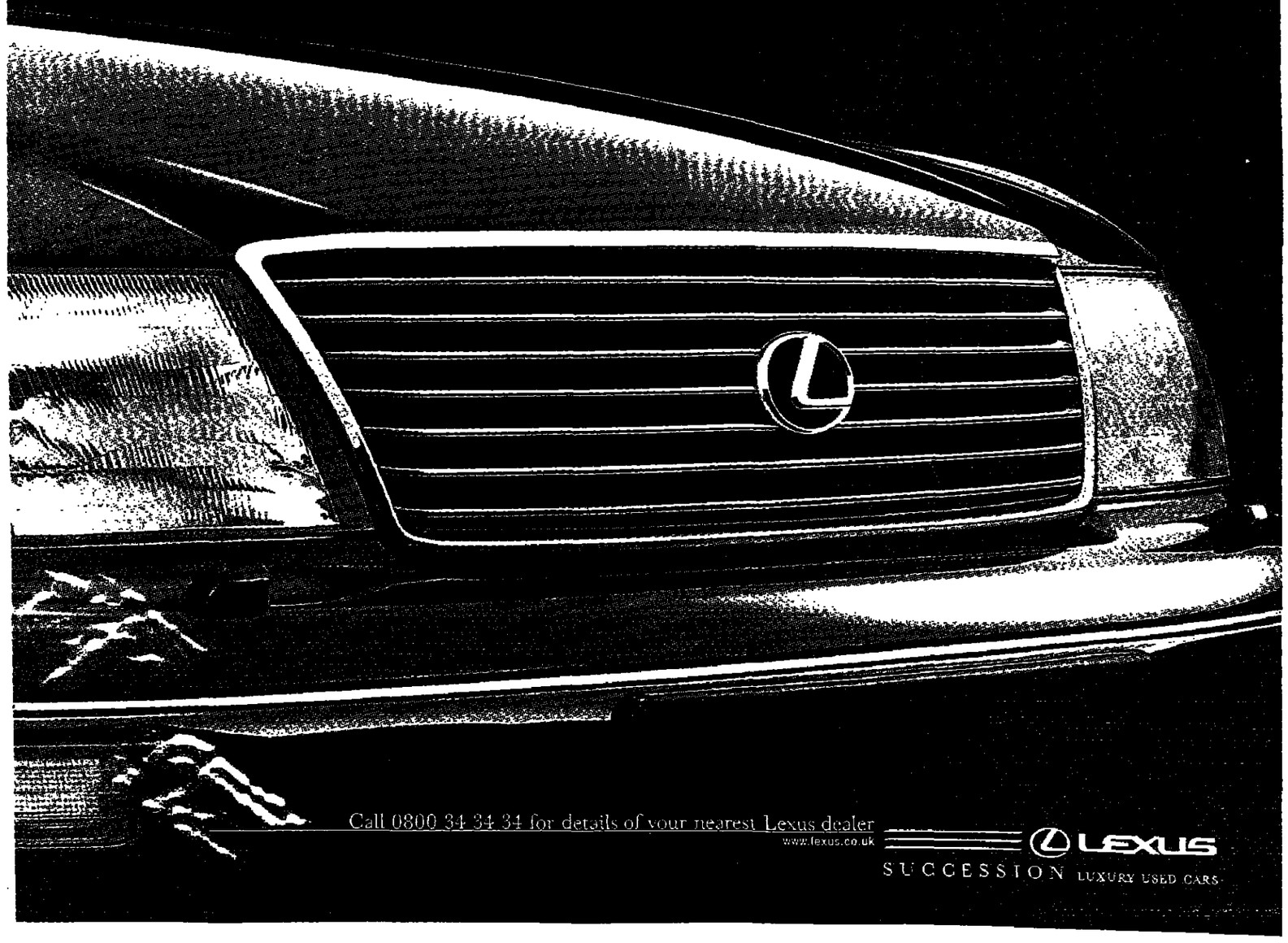
And willows, willow-herb, and grass,
And meadowsweet, and haycocks dry,
No whit less still and lonely fair
Than the high cloudlets in the sky.

And for that minute a blackbird sang
Close by, and round him, mistier,
Further and farther, all the birds
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

This week's poems come from the seventh edition of *Poems on the Underground*, edited by Gerard Benson, Judith Chernaik and Cicely Herbert (Cassell, £12.99). Emulated around the world since its launch in 1986, *Poems on the Underground* now has counterparts on transport systems in cities from Moscow to Adelaide, as well as on the Internet.

EVERY USED LEXUS IS AS GOOD AS NEW
AFTER ALL, WE DO TURN THE CLOCK BACK.

If H.G. Wells were alive today he'd probably appreciate the Lexus. Advanced engineering means we can go back in time. Each used car, up to ten years old, now has a 3 year unlimited mileage warranty. The fact that the benefits of a new Lexus begin again with you when you buy a used one, explains the title Succession. Apart from the warranty, there's a 3 year Lexus Club membership, 3 years RAC Euro cover, Lexus Accident Management Service and a recorded mileage guarantee. But before that, every car has a multi-point check by a Lexus specialist. By the time he's finished, the car is certainly as good as new.



Call 0800 34 34 34 for details of your nearest Lexus dealer
www.lexus.co.uk
LEXUS
SUCCESSION LUXURY USED CARS

هكذا من الاصل

SAVE AROUND £154* ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS WITH BRITISH GAS.

We're pleased to announce that, in 1998, we'll be offering significant savings against your current gas and electricity bills. Simply switch your gas payment from standard credit to monthly direct debit for immediate savings on your gas bill and from 12th January 1998 you'll see even more reductions. Then, for extra savings, get both your gas and electricity from us when the electricity market opens to competition in your area. Electricity competition should open in phases across the country from April 1998. Electricity savings are based on the latest announced prices from the regional electricity companies. Overall savings will depend upon your levels of consumption, and this example is based on a typical 4 bedroom detached house. For further details phone 0645 500 145.

British Gas
Home Energy

*Electricity savings compare the British Gas Home Energy proposed national average direct debit price against the average announced direct debit prices for all 14 regional electricity companies (as at 24/11/97). Gas savings compare our current standard credit price with our monthly direct debit price from 12th January 1998. Based on one year's electricity consumption of 4,200 kWh and gas consumption of 47,307 kWh from British Gas.

Anti-sleaze spotlight falls on colleges

MPs investigating further education are to examine the case of a lecturer suspended by his college after raising concerns over propriety. *Lucy Ward*, Education Correspondent, finds the anti-sleaze searchlight trained on colleges as never before.

Guido D'Isidoro is awaiting a disciplinary hearing at Llandrillo College, North Wales, at which he could face dismissal. His crime was to ask questions – first at the college and then at the Welsh Office – over the propriety of the principal and finance director being husband and wife.

Though he did not suggest any financial wrongdoing, Mr D'Isidoro, principal lecturer in business studies and staff development co-ordinator, was concerned that day-to-day management of a £15m annual budget should rest primarily with two such closely linked individuals.

An inquiry ordered by college governors and carried out last July by the college's auditors Price Waterhouse examined whether impropriety had arisen as a result of the relationship between Huw Evans and his wife Gill. After the report found no evidence of wrongdoing, the matter was considered closed pending Mr D'Isidoro's hearing.

But while the college and Welsh Office have all but shut their files on the case, members of the Commons education select committee have called for more details as part of a review of governance and funding in further education.

Margaret Hodge, chairwoman of the committee, told *The Independent* she would be writing to the Welsh colleges' funding and inspection quango over the issue.

The re-emergence of the Llandrillo case is only the latest in a series of events turning the spotlight on probity and governance in further education.

Roger Ward, chief executive of the sector's representative body, the Association of Colleges, is the subject of an independent inquiry following allegations that he had used his position to promote a private healthcare firm and a lecturing agency.

In a Commons debate on further education last month, John Cryer, MP for Hornchurch, complained to Kim Howells, lifelong learning minister, over the "considerable power with few checks and balances on its execution" wielded by principals since colleges were made independent of local authority control in 1993.

Mr Cryer cited the case of Braintree College in Essex where the principal and chief executive Martin Bates is also clerk to the college's governing body, and of Doncaster College in South Yorkshire where the clerk was until recently Nina Ashurst, wife of the principal, Terry Ashurst.

Under guidance from the Further Education Funding Council, the clerk has a key role in advising governors on procedures, alerting the governing body if it risks overstepping its powers and ultimately whistle-blowing to a higher authority if governors act irregularly.

He or she should "remain detached from the discussions and decisions of the governing body and its committees" and must "be able to preserve independence from the management of the college". The guidance clearly states that the clerk should not be a member of the governing body.

Braintree College confirmed to *The Independent* on Friday that its principal, who has been both clerk and a member of the governing body since 1993, is to step down as clerk following a meeting with governors early last week to discuss Mr Cryer's comments. However, despite offering to leave the role immediately, he is to stay as clerk until a replacement is appointed.

At Doncaster, advertisements have been placed for a new clerk, though Mr Ashurst insisted his wife had always intended to step down. There was no more risk of impropriety if a principal's spouse acted as clerk than if a senior member of staff dependent on the principal for promotion took on the role, he said.

As the select committee prepares to report on further education next spring, Baroness Blackstone, higher education minister, is considering changes to the articles and instruments by which colleges are governed.

Fashion statement: A customer trying on a sari at Damini's, Deepak Mohindra's flagship store in East Ham Photograph: Philip Meech

Asian fashion crosses cultural divide

Yesterday saw the launch of the biggest 'Asian Cultural Festival' ever with the BBC, the event's organiser, welcoming the 'Asian Age'. *Randeep Ramesh* examines the success story and wonders when the appeal of the East will reach the High Street.

British Asians are likely increasingly to influence Britain's fashion and music, if you believe the publicity surrounding the BBC's *Mega Melu*.

There are signs that the marketers may be right. Earlier this year, an unknown 17-year-old girl singer – Amar – was snapped up by Warner for a £3m, five-album deal. Two of London's hippest nightclubs, Anokha and Outcaste, have seen Asian couture handed the casting vote in the capital's style council.

Bashir Ahmed, a St Martin's graduate and design director for Apartment clothes, says it is the "white mainstream that have discovered Asian fashion". "The kids in the clubs are predominantly English. Once it was known Jarvis Cocker came down to Anokha, you saw them turn up in sari tops and jeans."

The appeal is likely to increase with the burgeoning British Asian population. The London Research Centre estimates the capital's ethnic minorities will grow by 40 per cent in 15 years. Added to this is the mixing of cultures by marriage. At present, a fifth of Asian males have white partners.

But while the swish of the shalwar may be heard on the catwalk or in nightclubs, it is still unlikely to be seen on the high streets.

Deepak Mohindra sells Asian fashion to predominantly Asian customers in East Ham and Leicester. Despite developing his family business from a single grocery storeto a fashion empire with sales of £1.6m, Mr Mohindra's ambitions may force him to expand elsewhere.

"After my new store opens in Southall next year, I can't see how I can expand further in the UK. My next shop will be in New Jersey – where there is a large Indian community." The problem, Mr Mohindra says, is he has yet to find a high street store to take his brand as a line of clothing.

Curiously, it appears white shopkeepers can sell Asian designs to white audiences. Paul Garrod sells "Europeanised" designs from his four Chandni Chowk stores in the West Country. "Our customers are mainly white, but they have seen the world and like wearing Indian-style clothes," he says.

Experts believe, however, that Eastern designs will eventually come to British retailers. "It is about latent demand. Look at the parallel with food. Ten years ago, you would need to go to Leicester or Wembley to buy spices for a decent curry," says Ram Gidoomal, author of the *UK Maharajahs*. "Now you can go to Sainsbury's."

Spencer rules out early deal

The Spencer divorce hearing will continue today after officials quashed speculation of a possible settlement.

The two legal teams were meeting last night to discuss evidence in the case and were not about to thrash out a deal behind closed doors, a spokeswoman for Earl Spencer said.

Amid confusion outside the court in Cape Town, Shelley-Anne Claircourt backtracked on earlier statements and said: "The case goes on. Discussions are taking place with respect to the striking out of letters that were discussed on the first day of court. They are not going beyond that... "

Later, Earl Spencer's lawyer, Leslie Weinkove, refused to comment on whether a settlement had been discussed between the two legal teams.

One hour earlier the hearing had been adjourned until 10am today for what a court official described as "housekeeping".

But speculation continued of a settlement because the adjournment came just before the first of the high-profile witnesses were to give evidence for Lady Spencer.

Lady Spencer was due to go in the witness box following her lawyers' claims that her estranged husband had affairs with up to 12 women while she was in a clinic with an eating disorder.

Her father John, 66, a former RAF officer, was also expected to give evidence along with the Earl's former lover, Chantal Collopy.

The hearing is to decide if the divorce case will be heard in England or in South Africa where any settlement is likely to be less favourable to Lady Spencer.

The hearing this morning centred on discussions about how much Lady Spencer, 32, would get in a divorce settlement.

She has requested a clean break settlement of about £3.75m to prevent constant wrangling about payments.

The Earl, 33, who the court heard had a personal fortune of about £6m, is offering a lump sum of £300,000, £30,000 maintenance a year and other items including her home in a plush suburb of Cape Town. Any maintenance for the couple's four children would be worked out separately.

Lady Spencer's legal team said today that she wanted a clean break so she was "not standing at the gate like Oliver Twist".

During cross-examination, Nicholas Mostyn QC, an expert on family law and who is appearing for Earl Spencer, said future payments were secure because of his wealth.

He said: "The money is as secure as the Bank of England. It comes from his landed estates, it's absolutely guaranteed."

Mr Mostyn also said that the Earl was angered by what had been said during the opening of the case when the affairs were alleged.

He said: "I have been in the room when he has expressed considerable upset at the way the case has been conducted thus far."

The Earl was said to be determined to have his day in court to rebut the allegations and his spokeswoman has said there had been some "pretty sensational allegations made against him".

Irish rape victim prepares for abortion

The 13-year-old Irish gypsy girl who is pregnant after being raped was last night preparing for the termination she wanted after efforts to block it by her parents and pro-life groups failed.

The parents' lawyer indicated earlier that they wanted an eleventh-hour appeal at the Supreme Court in Dublin to prevent the abortion.

But in mid-morning their lawyer said this would not proceed. With conflicting signals, Chief Justice Liam Hamilton then convened a special hearing of the five-judge court for confirmation of this from all parties' representatives.

The way now seems clear for the girl to have the abortion in England.

Her parents first favoured a termination, but changed their minds after meeting pro-life campaigners. They financed last week's unsuccessful High Court bid to overturn the initial Children's Court approval for the abortion.

The girl's parents have 12 children and live in extreme poverty in dilapidated caravans on a roadside campsite near Dublin. In the High Court on Friday Mr Justice Geoghegan said their behaviour after the alleged rape had not corresponded with what was expected of parents "in such appalling circumstances".

On Sunday the girl blocked a meeting with her parents when they refused to let a social worker attend.

The parents now plan to seek the lifting of the order that has placed their daughter in care since September. Following legal advice the Archbishop of Dublin at the weekend turned down the father's request for the Church to fund a Supreme Court appeal.

The case brought pressure on Bertie Ahern's government to end confusion surrounding Irish abortion law left by the 1983 "pro-life" constitutional amendment giving mother and unborn child an "equal right to life".

We save you money.
Or we give you money.

(That's a promise.)

When it comes to your phone bill, our promise is really very simple: if you don't make savings on your call bill compared with BT's basic rate (even against their PremierLine and Friends & Family schemes but excluding temporary promotions), we'll give you back double the difference.* So to see how much you could save, why don't you ring us now on **FreeCall 0500 500 366** quoting RINDSA.

CABLE & WIRELESS
What can we do for you?

*Price Pledge terms apply on Cable & Wireless SmartCall, UK Call and LocalCall bills only. For non-cable customers the Price Pledge comparison is on call charges only; for cable customers it is call charges and line rental. Application subject to status. Not available for Calling Card and non-geographic calls including mobiles. For quality of service purposes we may occasionally monitor or record your telephone calls with Cable & Wireless.

هكذا من الاصل

Kyoto gets off to an icy start

An agreement on measures to save the world from global warming appeared further away than ever last night with the European Union accusing the United States of trying to find loopholes. *Richard Lloyd Parry* **reports from the first day of the Kyoto climate summit.**

Icy exchanges between European and American officials and few signs of feasible compromise signalled an unpromising first day of the Kyoto summit.

The only hope for the conference – known as COP3 or the Third Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, to give it its full name – appears to lie in a last-minute agreement by ministers, including the deputy prime minister, John Prescott, who will arrive in Kyoto for high-level negotiations at the weekend.

Despite months of intensive preparation, wide differences still exist between the participants at the conference which is taking place in this ancient Japanese city and which aims to reach a world-wide agreement on reducing greenhouse gases.

The Europeans, along with small island states who feel especially threatened by rising sea levels, are pressing for the most radical measures: the EU wants a 15 per cent reduction in 1990 levels of greenhouse gas emissions by 2010.

The US, the world's biggest producer of ozone-depleting gases, has much more conservative goals – the stabilisation of gas emissions at 1990 levels, as late as 2012. Australia, as a big exporter of coal with rising domestic fuel consumption, wants to increase its own emissions; the conference's host, Japan, takes a conciliatory middle line, although it has moved closer to the US.

The points of disagreement are many and technical, ranging from the number of gases to be included in the final deal, to the role played by forests in absorbing carbon dioxide. But controversy yesterday focused on what is known as the EU "bubble", whereby European pollution is considered collectively rather than on the basis of individual countries.

Under the EU's proposal less advanced members such as Greece and Portugal could increase their output of pollutants, while countries such as Britain and Germany compensate with more drastic improvements. The Americans and Australians insist that this is unfair, and that if the European states can adopt different targets this option should be available to other countries.

For the first time yesterday, the US incorporated into its official position the concept of "differentiation" – in other words, different targets for different countries, rather than a single percentage reduction adopted by everyone. Japanese officials welcomed this as a sign of "flexibility", but a European spokesman denounced it as a ploy which would dilute the drive for comprehensive action, and result in a smaller overall reduction of pollutants.

"We've detected flexibility, but it's in the wrong direction," said Pierre Gramegna, Luxembourg's ambassador in Japan, and whose country holds the EU presidency. "Our impression is that the game is to find ever more loopholes, and that is a bad omen. The beginning of the conference is not very encouraging."

Even the Japanese spokesman, Toshiaki Tanabe, said that he was no more than "cautiously optimistic with regard to the outcome of the conference". He said: "Japan is trying to force the US to increase its reduction margin, but also we have to be realistic. I don't think they'll increase until the very end."

Hopes now rest with the meeting of ministers which begins next Monday, and on a round of telephone diplomacy between heads of government. Mr Prescott has made two intercontinental journeys drumming up support for an idea which officials refer to as the "window of credibility". This refers to the lag between an agreement in Kyoto next week, and its ratification by legislatures before which it will have no legal force.

If Congress becomes less dominated by Republicans, it may become easier for the US to take a softer line. In the meantime, developing nations will have the opportunity to propose their own cuts – another US demand. Presented in such a way, all sides could claim an agreement as a victory – while the Europeans emphasised numerical targets, the US would not feel itself immediately bound by their terms.

Ground-breaking: Natural gas and mud bursting from the earth near an oil well in Aceh province in Sumatra, Indonesia, after a leak had forced a drill to be withdrawn. Around 1,400 people had to flee their homes after explosions damaged 200 houses Photograph: Reuters

Whitehall car budget equals spending on pollution

Britain spends almost as much on chauffeur-driven government cars as it does on monitoring air pollution, figures have revealed. Now ministers are facing calls to get on their bikes.

As world leaders deliberate in Kyoto on how best to tackle global warming, Norman Baker, the Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes, has a small suggestion to make on how the Mother of Parliaments can help.

Part of the Government's £4.1m budget for ministerial limousines could be put to better use, he says. The move might even ease the need to spend £4.6m every year on checking the quality of the air we breathe. "Are the Government contributing to the problem or to the solution? Clearly they are still pursuing their own car economy," he says.

Mr Baker received the figures for 1996-97 in answer to parliamentary questions, though the Government Car and Despatch Agency preferred to set out its spending in a private letter rather than a public written answer.

Although the answers refer to spending under the last government, there is no big reason to believe spending on ministerial cars has been cut under Labour: in fact two Tory ministers, Sir George Young and David Willetts, rode bicycles. So far no Labour ministers have come out as cyclists, although there are moves to incorporate a cycling allowance into MPs' salaries.

The biggest-spending department last year was the Northern Ireland Office, which used £318,344 of the taxpayers' money on ferrying its top people around. Next came the Department of Trade and Industry, with £312,312, while third on the list of big spenders was the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which spent £283,972. The Department Transport, Environment and the Regions was fourth on £272,844.

The gold star for environmental correctness went to the Ministry of Defence, which scraped by on just £47,268, far less than much smaller departments such as the Attorney General's office, which spent £90,584, and the government chief whips, who spent £96,356. The Prime Minister's Office came in eighth with £240,188.

An official at the Department of Transport, Environment and the Regions said that John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, had been known to travel by Tube.

"If he's got visits to various places he will go by train. We do have an integrated transport policy," she said.

Others said it was easier to be green in opposition than it was in government. "It's somewhat hard to carry red boxes around on the back of a bicycle," one official said.

— *Fran Abrams, Political Correspondent*

alex

digital

Allen Freyus, Senior Vice President and CIO, New York Mercantile Exchange: "DIGITAL Multivendor Customer Services keeps every part of my system up. The parts DIGITAL make. The parts other vendors make. It saves money. It saves time. Time I can actually spend with my family. I like that. My five-year-old likes that." Find us at www.digital.com or call 0800 393 200. And get ready to win in a networked world.

Protesting beef farmers send cheap Irish imports packing to a watery grave

The French approach to agricultural disputes came to Holyhead yesterday. Farmers in North Wales, angry at cheap beef imports from Ireland and the hardships caused by the BSE ban on exports, stopped lorries arriving from the Republic and threw boxes of beefburgers into the harbour. *Tony Heath* **witnessed the carnage.**

Irish beefburgers worth £70,000 swilling around in Holyhead harbour yesterday were testimony to the anger of Welsh farmers complaining that they were heading for the rocks because of poor livestock prices.

The protest coincided with the publication of Government figures which showed that British farmers' income this year is forecast to be 35 per cent lower than in 1996.

The 40-tonne cargo was stolen when around 600 protesters forced open the doors of one of several Irish lorries arriving in the North Wales port on board the *Stenna Explorer*. The route from the docks was blocked and the protesters had spiked barriers capable of shredding tyres in reserve.

The Secretary of State for Wales, Ron Davies, and leaders of both the National Farmers' Union and the Farmers' Union of Wales, were swift to condemn the action. Mr Davies sympathised over the plight of beef farmers hit by the strong pound and the export ban resulting from the BSE crisis, but he condemned the Holyhead action. "Anyone who committed a criminal act should be prosecuted," he said.

Bob Parry, president of the FUW, who farms on Anglesey, was appalled. However, he warned: "The government will have to take notice. If they don't, God knows what will happen next time."

Sir David Naish, NFU president, described the events which lasted until daybreak yesterday, as counterproductive. "Threats will not solve the problem," he said.

The actions will not win support in Europe from the Council of Ministers, where talks to end the beef export ban are going on. The Secretary of State for Agriculture, Jack Cunningham, said: "There is no easy pot of gold in Brussels, waiting to be picked up on behalf of farmers. Violence and the destruction of legitimate products will not help to resolve the situation."

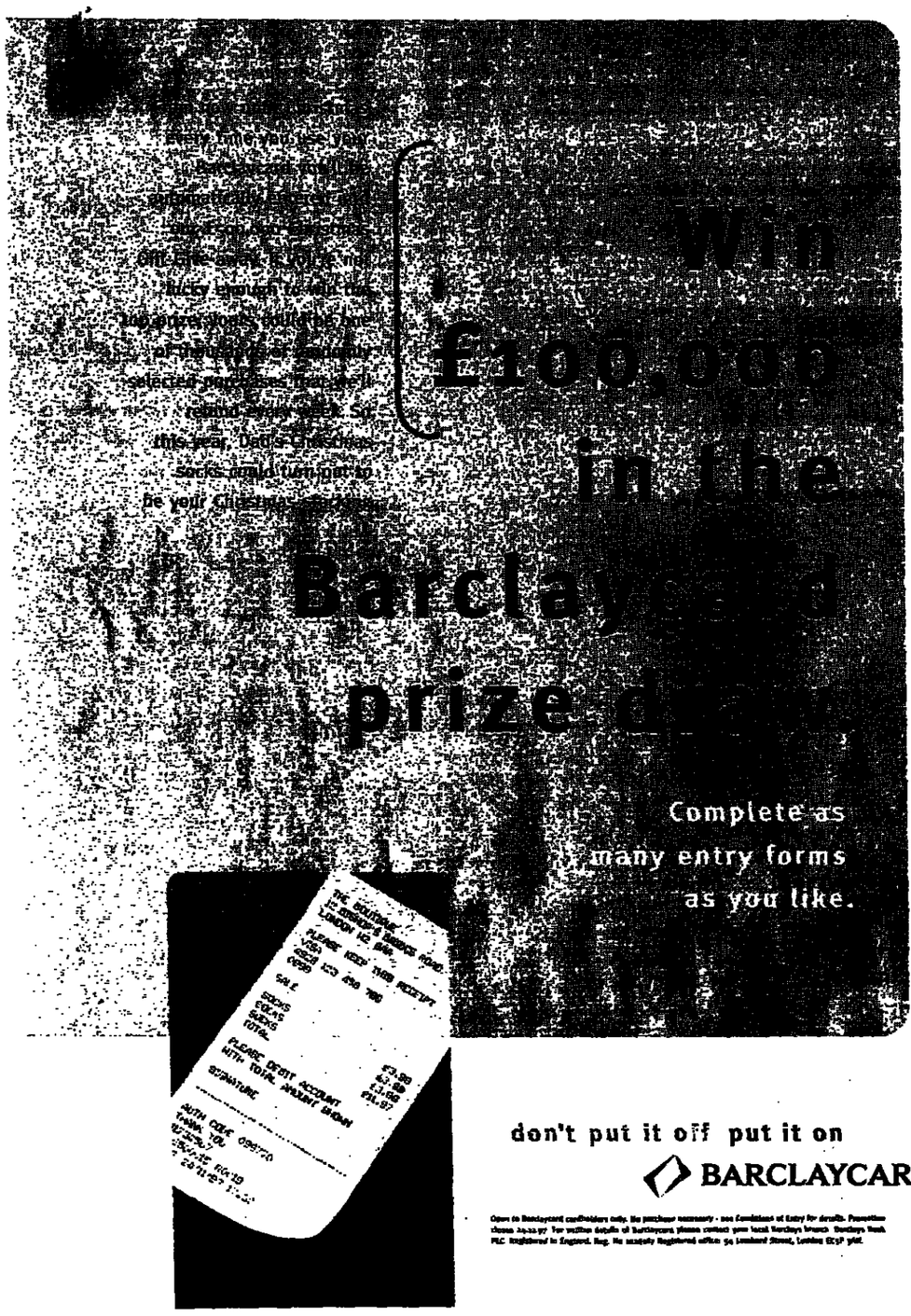
Around 20 police officers were at the scene but no arrests were made. The events followed a meeting in the nearby market town of Gaerwen.

When the ferry docked the protesters were ready. They refused to allow through meat lorries but let other freight pass. Lorry drivers approaching the port to embark for Ireland were held by police outside the town. Daniel Hodges, of the Road Haulage Association, said that blockade tactics witnessed in France seemed to be spreading. "The last thing our members need is similar action here," he said.

As if to underline farmers' concerns, Welshpool market – the largest in Wales – yesterday reported the lowest level of business for years with stock being returned to farms unsold. One farmer said: "A year ago I was getting £380 to £420 for an animal. Today I'd be lucky to get £270 for a similar beast."

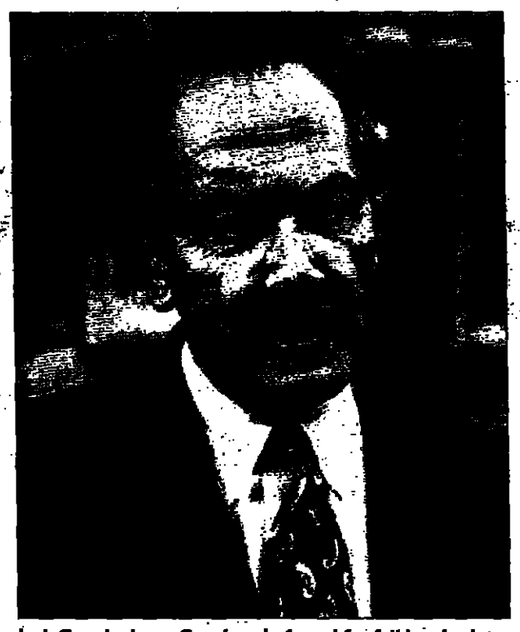
The protest carries echoes of 1974 when the port of Holyhead and the railway linking it to the national network were both blockaded by farmers protesting at the import of live cattle from the Republic.

Steak out: the Holyhead pilot navigates his way through a sea of beefburger boxes hurled into the water by farmers Photograph: Iolo Williams



Tory handling of BSE crisis to go before public inquiry

A full-scale public inquiry into the Tories' handling of the BSE crisis is to be announced by the Government. *Colin Brown,* **Chief Political Correspondent, says it is a victory for the families of the CJD victims but will not satisfy Welsh farmers who dumped Irish beefburgers into the sea.**



Jack Cunningham: Convinced of need for full inquiry into Tories' handling of affair, despite Downing St misgivings

Ministers are likely to announce the inquiry before Christmas. News of the move emerged as the Government faced renewed protests from farmers in Wales, who have been dumping beefburgers into Holyhead docks as a sharp reminder that the beef ban still has not been lifted.

Jack Cunningham, the Minister for Agriculture, who yesterday had to answer the farmers' protests, has secured Downing Street backing for the inquiry. Senior Government sources have told *The Independent* that agreement could be reached in the next 10 days on the detailed terms of reference.

It will be separate from the Department of Health inquiry into the disclosure that three people may have been infected with CJD from transplants from a patient, who died and was discovered to be suffering from the disease after a post-mortem examination.

The aim of the inquiry will be to learn the lessons from the handling of the crisis which – in spite of repeated assurances – has still failed to lift the EU beef ban. But there is also a determination among ministers to answer criticism for the deaths associated with BSE and the massive cost of the subsidies, which have run into billions of pounds.

"We have public inquiries for rail crashes where seven people are killed. With BSE we have had more than 20 die from CJD, and billions lost in compensation and we have had nothing," said a Cabinet source.

The latest estimates show BSE will cost Britain a further £3.4bn before the millennium – 1.5bn in 1996-97; £930m in 1997-98; £563m in 1998-99 and £488m in 1999-2000, with some offset by EU rebates. More than 1.2 million cattle have been slaughtered under the 30-month scheme.

Criticisms levelled at the last Government include the following charges: that it failed to supervise adequately the rendering industry; it failed to ensure an effective ban on the feeding of mean-and-bone meal to ruminants such as cattle; it failed to respect the national prohibitive legislation outlawing imports of meal from the UK; it put pressure on the Commission not to include anything related to BSE in its general inspections of slaughterhouses; and it did not display sufficient zeal in monitoring the maintenance of the embargo on meat and by-products.

Britain and the European Commission were attacked in a European Parliament committee of inquiry for continuing to allow the export of animal feedstuffs that could not legally be fed to cattle in this country, and narrowly escaped censure. But there was confusion over the selective cull scheme agreed at Florence in 1996.

Dr Cunningham was given the staunch backing of Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, in pressing for the Government to announce the inquiry, in spite of misgivings within Downing Street and officials at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The inquiry was discussed at a special Cabinet *ad hoc* committee on BSE yesterday, attended by Dr Cunningham, Mr Dobson, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, and Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. The details will be fixed at further meetings over the next fortnight.

A senior figure will be appointed to head the inquiry, and it is likely to have similar powers as the Scott inquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair. But ministers are keen to ensure that it is thorough, quick and does not drag on for the three years which the Scott inquiry took. John Major and the former agriculture minister Douglas Hogg could be among those summoned to give evidence.

Downing Street raised reservations about the inquiry, fearing that it would reopen old wounds and make it more difficult for Britain to persuade the European partners to lift the beef ban in Europe. Dr Cunningham convinced Tony Blair that the inquiry would not hamper the lifting of the beef ban, which would be based on scientific opinion.

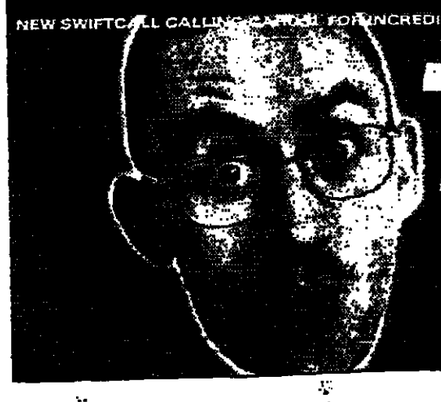
Former Tory ministers have told *The Independent* that there was no cover-up under John Major's administration, but the inquiry will will investigate whether ministers were at fault in not acting more quickly, and whether there was mishandling of the lifting of the beef ban, which is still in place, in spite of repeated assurances that under the Tories that Europe was moving towards lifting a ban.

Maff officials were also worried about the prospect of an inquiry into their actions. There may be fears that some could be made scapegoats, but one reason for moving quickly with the inquiry is to ensure that it is held while the Tory responsibility for handling the BSE is still fresh in the public's mind. Ministers were convinced that an inquiry would have to be held and any delay risked associating the blame with the Labour Government.

For savings on hundreds of other destinations and to open an account call us now! Comparisons with B.T.'s standard weekday rates. Prices quoted are correct as of 01.12.97 & are available Mon-Fri, quoted in pence per minute. VAT refunds available to businesses. Please have your credit card ready when you call. Visit our website: www.swiftcall.com

SWIFTCALL | SAVE MONEY ON YOUR INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS WITH SWIFTCALL | 0800 769 0066

NEW SWIFTCALL CALLING CARDS! FOR INCREDIBLE SAVINGS OF UP TO 70% ON BT'S PAYPHONE RATES, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NEWSAGENT. DISTRIBUTORS URGENTLY REQUIRED. FOR DETAILS FREEPHONE 0800 769 0171.



TALK IS CHEAP!

Call us today free on 0800 769 0066 for details on fantastic savings to hundreds of other destinations and how to open your pre-paid account.

Calls to	Swiftcall		B.T.	SAVE
Australia	20p	Vs	49p	59%
India	50p	Vs	£1.20	58%
Japan	20p	Vs	77p	74%
USA	8p	Vs	24p	67%

هكذا من الأصل

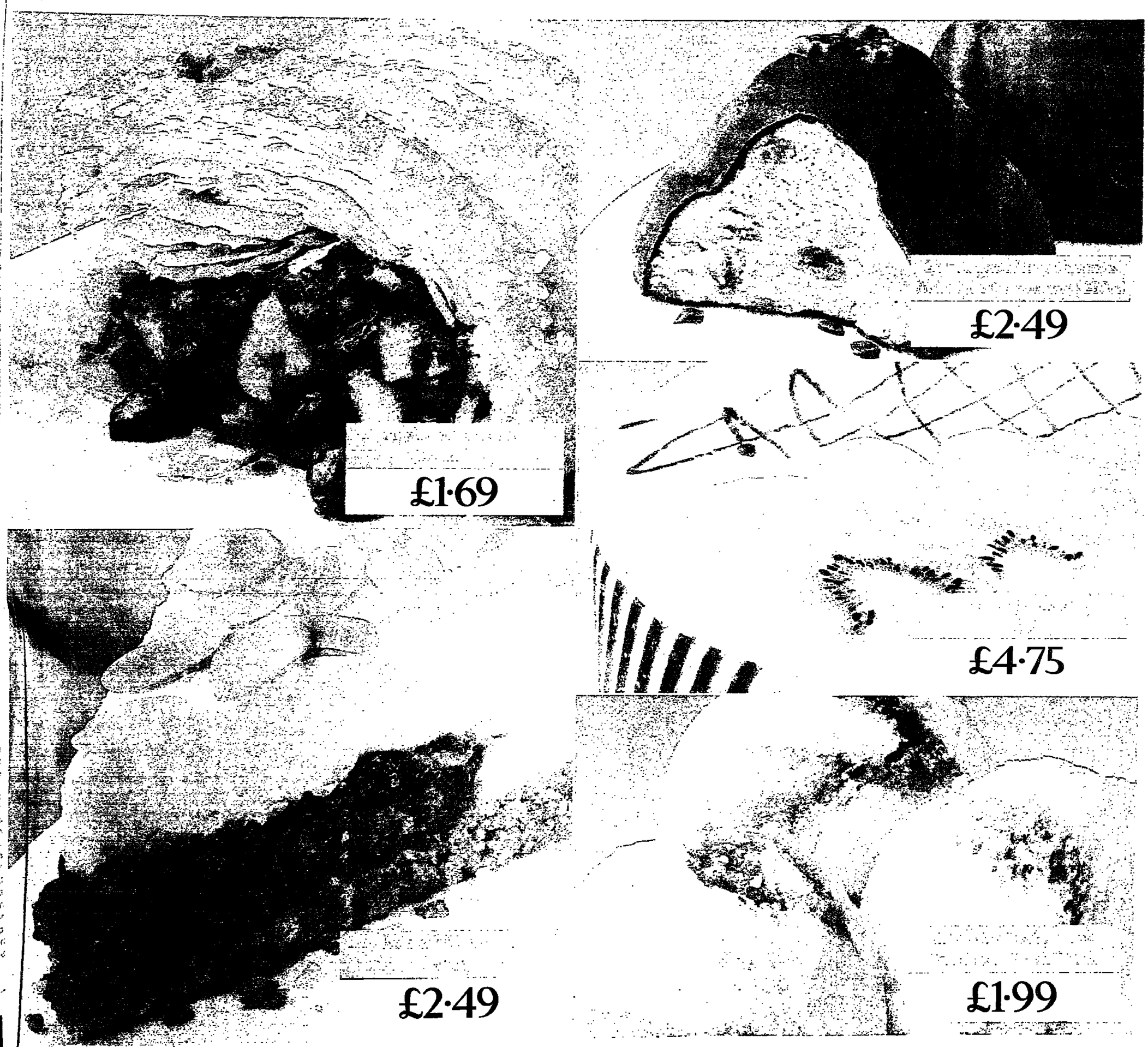
هكذا من الاصل

crisis
quiry

769 0066

SAVE
59%
58%
74%
67%

Sainsbury's new frozen desserts.
Who says you have to have Christmas pudding at Christmas?



ALSO AVAILABLE AT SAINSBURY'S SAVACENTRES. SOME LINES NOT AVAILABLE IN SMALLER STORES. PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. WE'D BE INTERESTED IN YOUR COMMENTS: WWW.sainsburys.co.uk

Currency club may split EU, warns Brown

A new 'economic government' reserved exclusively for members of the single currency could split the European Union, the Chancellor Gordon Brown warned in Brussels yesterday. *Katherine Butler* watched mounting anxiety at the erosion of British influence as France and Germany stood firm against his demands for admission to an inner circle to manage the euro.

EU ministers were battling to avert their first full-scale crisis with the Blair government last night as a rift deepened over a club which would exclude countries not participating in the single currency.

It was the kind of public squabble that recalled the worst hostility of the Tory years, and which Labour had once insisted would never recur once they took office.

Mr Brown warned a two-tier Europe would erode the "common interest" principle which is written into the EU treaty and which has underpinned the Union since its foundation. He protested strongly about the wide range of economic matters which its supporters want the new body, known for now as Euro-X, to cover.

But the resolve of the French and Germans, who have masterminded the new council, appeared stronger than ever as they asserted the right of single currency members to exclude "outsiders" from their club.

Theo Waigel, Germany's finance minister, said: "You cannot be both in and out." The French said they had the full backing of the eleven member states who expect to be in the euro zone in the first wave.

Luxembourg, which holds the EU presidency, and the European Commission were working frantically last night to build bridges. They presented a compromise which would offer Britain Sweden Denmark and Greece, all of whom are expected to remain outside the single currency in 1999, a guaranteed flow of information on what is discussed inside Euro-X.

But the plan, to allow the European Commission to sit in on discussions and then inform the outs, was rubbished by British officials who said it offered nothing new. "We want a voice at the table not an ear at the door," said one source.

Germany insisted there would be no "discrimination" against the outsiders and said there would be no attempt to set up a secretive body but said there was nothing Britain could legally do to stop Euro-X from going ahead.

It now seems inevitable that the row will have to be referred to the summit of EU leaders in two weeks' time. "We would expect it to go to the summit," said a British spokesman.

Britain's dilemma is that short of accepting an unsatisfactory compromise which ensures it is, at best, kept informed of discussions inside Euro-X, there is little it can do. One tactic being hinted at last night is the threat that Britain will invoke the EU treaty to prevent members of the inner circle from using EU-funded buildings or catering facilities for their meetings.

The denial of full participation on the new body, even if it is as the Germans claim "informal", means Britain will have little scope to exert influence over discussions on such matters as budgetary policy, fiscal harmonisation, labour market reforms, wages policy, and the external exchange rate policy of the Euro-zone.

Under the Franco-German plan, Euro-X's remit would extend far beyond technical management of the currency. An example is the French plan to introduce a 35-hour week, which after the launch of the single currency could have a much greater impact on member economies.

● London (Reuters) — Emu member countries could put Britain under political pressure if the pound should fall sharply against the euro at some stage in the future, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

Questioned by Commons Foreign Affairs Committee on how much influence Emu members would have over British exchange rate policy, Mr Cook answered that they would have no binding legal powers.

Mr Cook was asked whether the pound might be forced to shadow or follow the single currency before Britain joined it.

"I think the position is that we cannot be legally compelled to do so," he said. But some Emu member states were motivated by "weariness with what they see as unfair depreciation of other people's currencies.

"Without doubt if the single currency was to find itself appreciating against sterling, or we were seen to be depreciating, we would come under political pressure."

A Russian fishing through the ice of the frozen Neva river yesterday in St Petersburg, where temperatures fell to -15C. Many fear the exceptional cold means there is a harsh winter ahead Photograph: Alexander Demianchuk/Reuters

Cyclist bites below the belt

A cyclist angered by an overtaking city bus climbed aboard at the next stop and bit the driver's genitals, Polish prosecutors alleged yesterday.

The Podgorze district prosecutor in Krakow, south Poland, accused the man of causing bodily harm. The prosecutor said the bus had tried to overtake the cyclist on 9 September and got by after tooting twice.

At the next stop the enraged cyclist got onto the bus and began a row with the driver. Then he beat him, broke his nose, and bit him in the stomach and genitals, the court heard.

— Reuters, Warsaw

Eta's leading political supporters jailed

Spain's Supreme Court jailed the 23 leaders of the pro-Eta Herri Batasuna party for seven years each yesterday for collaborating with terrorist gunmen, in a verdict expected to have a profound impact on the conflict in the Basque Country.

The three judges also fined the accused 500,000 pesetas (£2,100) each and banned them from public office for the duration of their sentence. The leaders, who are to appeal to Spain's Constitutional Court, were found guilty of distributing an Eta video that showed armed and masked men during last year's general election campaign. They were acquitted on more serious charges of apology for terrorism and membership of an "armed band".

Margarita Mariscal de Gante, the justice minister, said the conviction applied to "some individuals" and was not "the persecution of a political organisation and its ideas" – which suggests the government does not intend to ban the organisation.

It is the first time in 20 years of HB's legal existence that a legal judgment has recognised a link between the party and armed Basque separatists. HB has always denied the link, saying: "We support Eta's aims but not their methods".

Yesterday's verdict is thought likely to make HB redefine its relationship with the armed organisation, perhaps to assert a greater autonomy from it. "They're already thinking of a replacement leadership, whether or not the present leaders go to jail," said Joseba Eguibar, a leader of the conservative Basque National Party, some weeks ago. "They know, after the massive anti-Eta demonstrations in the summer, that only their own people will back a protest against a conviction."

●Abel Matutes, the foreign minister, insisted yesterday that Spain would not accept Britain's demand that it should lift military restrictions on Gibraltar. Britain says it will not approve a streamlined Nato structure that would integrate Spain fully into the alliance, unless Madrid allows the movement of aircraft and ships in and out of the colony.

Mr Matutes said Spain's sovereignty claim left him with no room for manoeuvre. "We have to maintain the restrictions because this is part of our sovereignty claim over the area where the airport is located. We have never accepted Britain's occupation of this area." Nato should have asked for restrictions to be lifted in in 1982 when Spain joined, Mr Matutes said. "No one asked then, or subsequently. You can't ask now just because you're changing the structure. It would imply that Spain had to pay a toll for collaborating in Nato. We cannot accept that."

— Elizabeth Nash, Madrid

Citizenship row divides France

It will be a little easier to become French following a vote by the National Assembly yesterday. The amendments to the French nationality law – the latest of many – seem harmless enough. But *John Lichfield* in Paris says they have provoked accusations that both left and right are playing the game of the far-right National Front.

The law used to be simple: if you were born in France, you were French. That principle was progressively abandoned by centre-right governments in the 1980s and early 1990s under pressure from unemployment, immigration and Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front.

According to the present rules, a child born in France, of foreign parents, cannot become French until he or she is 18. Following a stormy debate last week, the National Assembly was expected to vote last night to allow French-born children of immigrants to become French at 13. Until then, they would have a quasi-French status as the holder of a "Republican identity card".

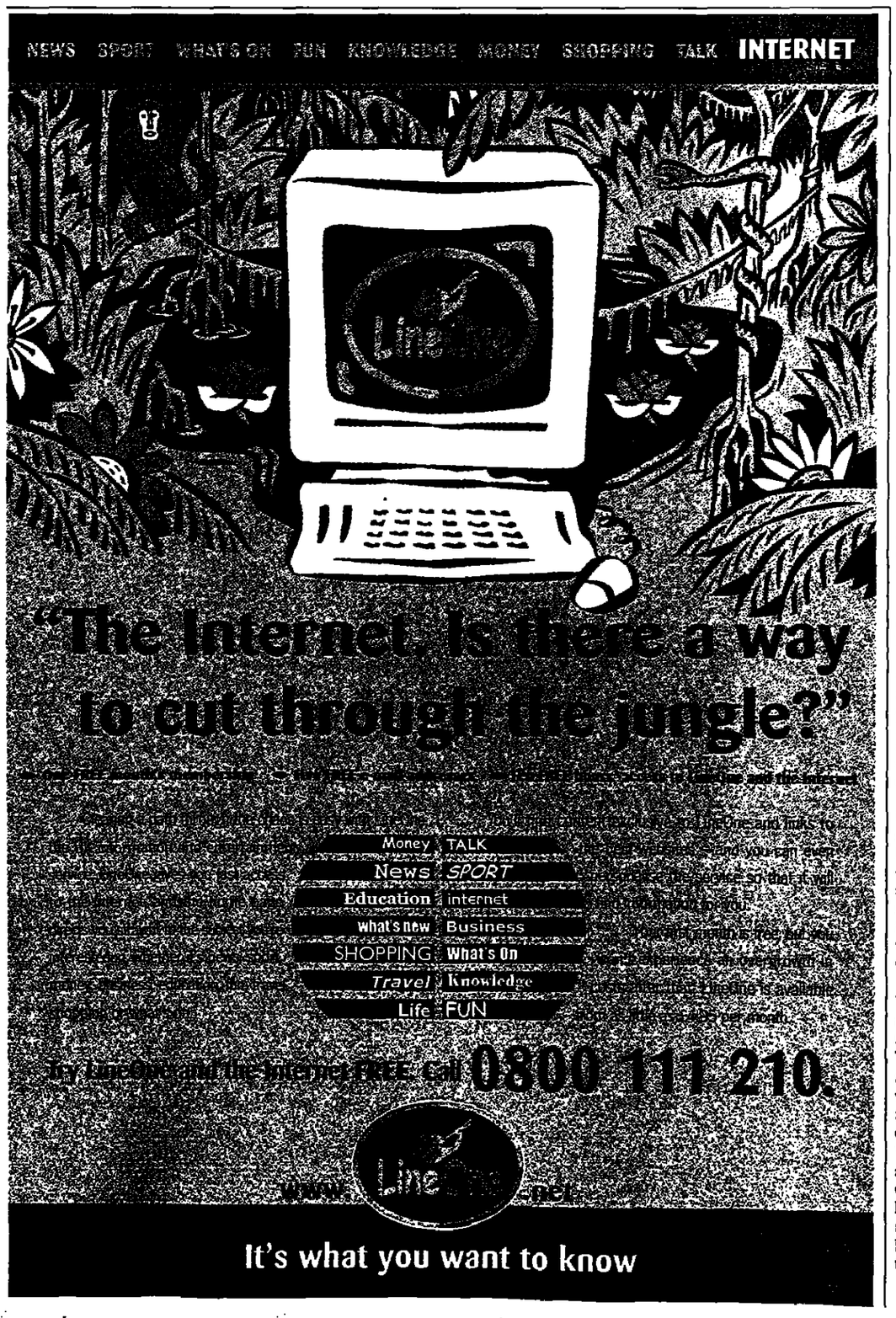
The modest changes have disappointed the far-left and green components of Lionel Jospin's coalition, which thought they – and he – had campaigned last May for the restoration of automatic citizenship – *le droit du sol*, or right of the soil. The softening of the law has also angered centre-right parties, who say it makes French nationality "too cheap".

Mr Jospin suggested at the weekend that the centre-right parties were pandering to the National Front as part of a possible electoral pact ahead of regional elections in March. On the contrary, said the centre-right, it was Mr Jospin who was "cynically" trying to stir up the NF electorate, using the nationality issue to reduce the vote for the "traditional" right next year. François Bayrou, head of the centrist Force Democrat party, accused Mr Jospin of "blowing on the flames" of racism.

Under the present rules, introduced in 1993, children born of foreign parents in France remain foreign until they are 18. To obtain French citizenship, they must declare their wish to do so between the ages of 16 and 21.

The law has been blamed for deepening the sense of alienation of immigrant children in deprived suburbs of French cities, which have seen increased violence this autumn and winter. (However, the teenagers involved are often second or third-generation French citizens).

Under the new law, foreign parents can apply for French citizenship at 13 for a French-born child who has been living in France continuously since the age of eight. Young people can make the same application, without parental consent, at 16. They can become French citizens from 18 onwards, as long as they have spent a total of five years in France since the age of 11.



Turkey and Greece end Aegean feud

Greece and Turkey have tentatively settled a decades-old dispute over how to share the airspace over the Aegean Sea for military flights.

The deal, announced yesterday at a meeting of chiefs-of-staff of Nato nations, must now be endorsed by the political leaders of both Greece and Turkey. It was hailed as a breakthrough by General Klaus Naumann, head of Nato's panel of military chiefs.

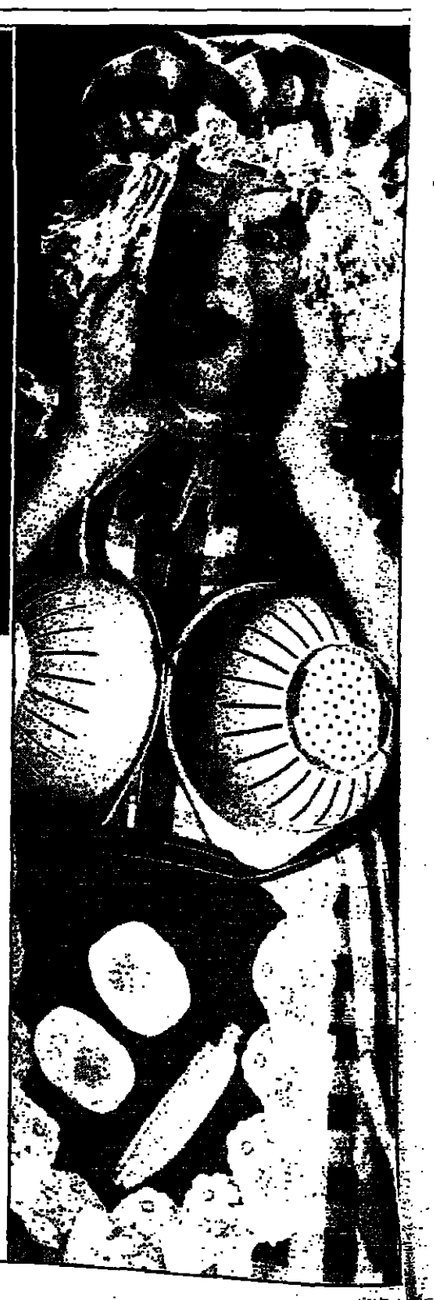
The most immediate result was Nato's announcement that it can now set up regional commands in the south-eastern Mediterranean in which Greek and Turkish officers will work side by side, something that has eluded the alliance for decades.

"Both nations showed great flexibility," General Naumann said. His announcement left Britain alone in rejecting Nato's overall new military command structure that would cut the main and regional headquarters from 65 to 24. Britain disagrees with Spain over the status of the Gibraltar airport.

Under the tentative Greek-Turkish accord, the two nations will share control over military flights in the Aegean. They will also consider null and void 1957 documents in which Nato held to a policy of massive retaliation against enemy attacks from the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact. That policy was abandoned long before the Cold War ended, but the texts have never formally been set aside. Consequently they have loomed large over relations between Greece and Turkey.

— AP, Brussels

While there's nothing like a dame, there's nothing like a Theatre Token.



Give someone a great night out at any show at over 160 theatres nationwide, including all of London's West End.

Simply buy Theatre Tokens from most branches of WH Smith, John Menzies, Hammicks, Books etc., through Ticketmaster 0171 344 4444, Tickets London 0171 416 6012 or Call our 24 hour Tokenline 0171 240 8800

THEATRE TOKENS

Street life: An Albanian working as a prostitute in Milan. The women are 'sold' to pimps in Italy by gangs in Albania for £1,500 Photograph: Claudio Vitale/Grazia Neri

Albania's export boom in vice and drugs

Abanian politics may be reurning to normal, but Abanian organised crime is sill flourishing and spreading broughout Western Europe. *Adrew Gumbel* examines the icious network peddling rostitution and drugs, and what the police are doing to stop it.

Amaildo Vrioni's little empire of prositutes and marijuana was hummingalong nicely – until the accident. Just ver a week ago, a rubber speedboa plying the narrow strip of Adriatic between southern Italy and Albnia capsized outside the Italian pot of Brindisi. Five people were recovered dead from the choppy waters, inuding a five-year-old child. Anoter 11 were unaccounted for.

The coastguard assumed the passagers were the usual desperate clch of refugees hoping for a bet t life in Italy. In a way, they were. But then the police picked up some hair-raising conversation from Mr Vrioni's car and mobile phone, which they had bugged, and realised what the nature of the desperation was.

"Dammit, a little girl died," Mr Vrioni was overheard saying to his wife and a friend. "But the four girls who survived were prostitutes. That's a relief." Over the next few hours, Mr Vrioni unwittingly gave away details of an intricate organisation that for months has been bringing over young women and drugs for sale in Italy and the rest of Western Europe. One police spokesman described the testimony as "hair-raising".

The prostitutes were bought from their families in Albania for around £800 each, "tried out" by members of Mr Vrioni's gang to see how much they were worth and then sold to pimps in Italy for upwards of £1,500.

Albanian prostitution rackets are notoriously vicious. Those women who were bold enough to speak about their experiences have talked of mutilation and torture at the hands of their so-called "protectors". Two of the four women who survived the capsized speedboat escaped from their hospital beds and vanished, presumably out of fear. The Italian police are hunting for them, hoping to reach them before the Albanian gangsters take their brutal revenge.

Based on the intercepts, the police arrested 11 people. They were all Albanians, including some, like Mr Vrioni, who were based in Italy. Other police operations and intelligence work suggest there is a great deal of co-operation between the Albanians and the Italian Mafia organisation based on the Adriatic Coast, known as the Sacra Corona Unita. They may not collaborate over prostitution, but they do help each other to traffic in arms and drugs and launder the profits.

For months, the Italian police has been seizing high-grade marijuana grown in the foothills of southern Albania – as much as eight tons in the year to May 1997, according to international police sources.

Last week, the Italian police working their counterparts elsewhere in Europe successfully dismantled their first international smuggling ring, with a series of 19 arrests in Italy, Germany and Holland. In one direction, marijuana was crossing Europe and ending up on sale in Amsterdam coffee-shops. In the other, arms and harder drugs, notably cocaine, were being subsumed into the racket. All the key figures arrested were Italians and were suspected members of the Sacra Corona Unita.

The criminals are exploiting two key loopholes – Italy's inadequate and poorly enforced immigration laws, and the climate of criminality and anarchy in Albania fuelled by poverty and the high-level corruption that was rampant until elections held this summer.

Some progress is being made on both sides. In Albania, the new Socialist government has taken steps to build up a respectable police force and has, for example, recently confiscated a number of speedboats operating out of the port of Vlora.

In Italy, a new immigration law giving the police powers to expel undesirables immediately (rather than giving them two weeks to leave the country) is worming its way through parliament.

But progress to beat the criminal gangs is bound to be slow. The new Albanian government's hands are tied by the need to provide its people with a living – something that is far from achievable for the moment, at least by legal means. And the Italians seem unable to take a clear stand on immigration for fear of seeming racist; the new bill is so complex that it is not clear it will achieve much.

The Italians are still scratching their heads over their crazy decision to let more than 10,000 Albanians enter the country freely at the height of the armed rebellion that racked their country last spring – a decision that, almost certainly provided the criminal gangs with valuable extra manpower. In concert with Tirana, they have decided to expel the last 5,000.

These refugees were supposed to have gone home yesterday. But they are refusing to go willingly, and the Italian government has shown no signs of using force to get rid of them.

Pathologist rejects murder claim over officer's wife

A pathologist yesterday told a jury that he found nothing to indicate that an RAF officer's wife had been murdered.

Dr Iain West, a forensic pathologist based at Guy's Hospital, London, said injuries on the body of Carol Tucker could have been caused in a traffic accident.

Dr West was giving evidence on the 11th day of the trial of Mrs Tucker's husband, Nicholas, 46, an RAF Regiment Squadron Leader based at RAF Honington, Suffolk.

Mrs Tucker, 52, was found face down in a river at Lackford, Suffolk, on 21 July 1995. She died after the car being driven by her husband left the road.

Prosecutors allege that Sqn Ldr Tucker throttled his wife then staged the accident to cover his crime. He denies the allegation.

The prosecution has alleged that blood spots in Mrs Tucker's eyes were an indication that she could have been strangled before being placed in the water.

But Dr West disputed those claims. He told the jury at Norwich Crown Court that there was no evidence of throttling or strangulation.

He said there were no marks on Mrs Tucker's neck to indicate that she had been strangled.

Dr West said it was possible for a person to be strangled and for the killer to leave no marks on his victim's neck. But he said in those cases victims would not have any blood spots (petechial haemorrhaging) in their eyes either.

"I've never seen a case where there has been no marks on the skin, no bruising on the muscles, and yet, there have been these petechial haemorrhages," said Dr West. "I have never seen it."

He said an examination of Mrs Tucker's body revealed no clear cause of death. He said she could have drowned or she could have choked.

But he said there was no positive indication that she had been subjected to any assault.

"There are no marks that cannot be explained by a traffic accident combined with attempts to retrieve and resuscitate," said Dr West.

"There are no marks which say these are only marks which could have been caused during the course of an assault."

Prosecutors say Sqn Ldr Tucker killed his wife because he was infatuated with 21-year-old Dijana Dudukovic.

They say he met Miss Dudukovic while he was serving with the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia in the first half of 1995.

A Royal Marines officer who worked with Sqn Ldr Tucker in the former Yugoslavia told the court earlier that Sqn Ldr Tucker's relationship with Miss Dudukovic undermined the effectiveness of his team of observers.

But yesterday other servicemen who worked with the RAF officer in the former Yugoslavia described him as professional, hardworking and meticulous.

Captain Ralf Tieken, an officer in the Dutch Army said: "I thought he was a professional and hardworking soldier. And I regarded his team as one of the most efficient teams."

The hearing continues today.

Girl aged 13 tells of rape by a friend from school

A teenage girl yesterday told a court that she was raped by a 13-year-old school friend in woodland near a disused railway line.

The victim, 12 at the time, described how she was dragged across a bridge, pushed against a fence, tripped up and raped by the boy in the Castlecroft area of Wolverhampton, West Midlands. Giving evidence at Wolverhampton Crown Court through a video link-up, she said: "He grabbed my hand and pulled me across the bridge, then he put his foot behind mine, tripped me up and got on top of me on the ground."

The girl, who cannot be named, said she could not bring herself to tell her parents about the incident last May, but later told a teacher. The boy, now aged 14, denies rape and indecent assault. Another boy, aged 15, also denies indecent assault relating to the incident.

Peter Cooke, for the prosecution, said the incident could be viewed "as an adolescent sexual experiment which quickly took a more nasty turn".

The trial continues.

Father calls on son suspected of child murder to surrender or kill himself

The father of a young man suspected of sexually assaulting and murdering an 11-year-old girl yesterday urged his son to surrender to police or to kill himself.

"It's come to the point where I hope he commits suicide rather than do any more harm," said Michael Khatchadourian, who found the body of the murdered girl in the cold store of his grocery shop in the suburbs of Bordeaux.

Christophe Khatchadourian, 25, who is also suspected of sexually assaulting and stabbing another girl, aged 10, has been on the run for five days. "He should have the courage to give himself up before he commits any other act of madness," the father told the newspaper *Aujourd'hui-Le Parisien*.

Mr Khatchadourian found the half-naked body of Cynthia Cazaurang when he re-opened his shop after the lunch-hour last Thursday. The little girl, who lived nearby, had been shot through the head.

"Christophe is no longer my son after what he did," Mr Khatchadourian said.

— John Lichfield, Paris

ZERO%
Interest free instalments on home and motor insurance
FREE CD WHEN YOU CALL FOR A QUOTE
0800 333 800
Lines open 8am-10pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat
EAGLE STAR
Eagle Star Insurance Company Limited. Registered in England and Wales no. 82051. Registered Office 60 St Mary Axe London EC3A 8JQ. Full credit details available on request.

THE INDEPENDENT
Win a Baxters® hamper
- experience the taste from The Highlands
Do not miss this opportunity to win one of the famous Baxters hampers.
The range covers: a variety of soup, jams & conserves, marmalade, beetroot, chutney, meat accompaniments and sauces.
Baxters of Speyside have been making fine foods since 1868, using only the finest ingredients and prepared with the same care and attention as used for nearly 130 years ensures the superb quality of all Baxters products.
We have ten of 'The Crathes Hampers' to offer, containing 30 items from Spicy Thai Chicken with Lemon Grass Soup, Shortbreads, Wine and Cakes.
To enter this competition, simply dial the number below, answer the following question on line and leave your name and full address:
Q: What year did Baxters start making their selection of foods?
Call 0930 563693
For further information on Baxters Hampers Freephone 0800 186800
Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Winners picked at random after lines close 9 December 1997. Usual Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editor's decision is final

THE INDEPENDENT
Stainless Steel Roasters
- from £27.95 inc. p&p
Whether you want to cook a tasty casserole or a Sunday roast, one of these stainless steel roasters will be perfect for the job. There are two popular designs to choose from: an oval roaster (pictured) measuring 36cm x 23cm (14¼ x 9") at £27.95 and a round roaster 30cm in diameter (11¾") at £29.95. Both prices include postage and packing.
The roasters can be used on the hob or in the oven. They also have a wire rack so that, for a healthier, lower-fat cooking method, you can place your chosen meat on top of the rack and any excess fat will drain off during cooking. The oval roaster also has a dual purpose lid which can be used as an attractive serving dish. These traditional roasters will look stylish in any kitchen and are dishwasher safe and easy to clean.
HOW TO ORDER
Fill in the coupon and send together with cheque or postal order/s. NO CASH please to:-
THE INDEPENDENT ROASTER OFFER, PO BOX 9477, LONDON E3 3SH
For Access/Visa orders, please phone 0171 510 0191
Or for enquiries, please call 0171 510 0193
We deliver to addresses in the UK only. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Return within 7 days for refund if not completely satisfied.
Offer subject to availability

LONGINES
L'ELEGANCE DU TEMPS DEPUIS 1832
Conquest VHP
Perpetual Calendar.
Water resistant to 100 metres.
Longines watches are available from leading retail jewellers.
For a catalogue please telephone 0161 624 3977

Turncoat North Korean diplomats reveal black comedy of life in a 'socialist paradise'

North Korean defectors yesterday revealed the tragicomic depths to which the country has sunk under its oppressive regime.

Hyun Sung-il, a former diplomat, described to the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London yesterday the extent to which ordinary North Koreans are influenced by state propaganda.

"People think North Korea is a socialist paradise. For many North Koreans, the food crisis is caused only by nature," he said.

Joining him at the meeting was Ann Myeong-chul, a former guard at a political prison camp. He gave a graphic example which illustrated the confusion, describing an incident after he had escaped from North Korea into China, from where he was trying to get to South Korea. "I asked an old man to help me. He said Kim il-Sung [the late North Korean leader] had made us all beggars – and I hit him. Then I realised what I had done. He was helping me – but I was still brainwashed."

Mr Hyun was a diplomat at the North Korean embassy to Zambia until his defection last year. He described how the embassy received no funds from Pyongyang. Instead, he and his colleagues indulged in smuggling and black-market trading – including ivory, rhino-horn and precious stones – to raise cash. An embassy minibus was commandeered to provide a private bus service to raise money for living expenses. When the embassy organised a national day reception, the diplomats had no money to serve food. They caught fish in rivers and lakes and served the fish. "They said that these were typical North Korean dishes."

When the embassy in Mozambique asked for funds to be sent from Pyongyang, the prompt response from Pyongyang was to close down the embassy entirely. As a result, said Mr Hyun, most diplomats preferred to keep their mouths shut.

Mr Hyun, who is now based in South Korea, pressed for a tougher line on aid to North Korea. "Humanism is good. But aid based on humanism will only maintain the system." He argued that North Korea must be forced into much more radical change. "The only way of saving the North Korean people from disaster is to change the leadership." — *Steve Crawshaw*

Star witness refuses to damn Winnie

Albertina Sisulu was billed as the witness with the key to Winnie Mandela's downfall. *Mary Braid* **in Johannesburg says her contribution was stunning, but not in the way expected.**

Hanif Vally, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission investigator, seemed completely flabbergasted. "I wasn't expecting this," he said, fumbling for his next question. Neither – with perhaps a few notable exceptions – was anyone else.

Yesterday was the sixth day of hearings into allegations that Mrs Mandela and her notorious Mandela United Football Club committed at least six murders and an array of assaults in the late 1980s.

The evidence has piled up to support the theory that Mrs Mandela murdered Soweto doctor Abu-Baker Asvat in January 1989 because he knew too much about her alleged involvement in the murder of a 14-year-old activist, Stompie Seipei Moeketsi, four weeks previously.

But Mrs Sisulu yesterday knocked a hole in that one. She completely withdrew the information that damned Mrs Mandela, which she recently provided for the BBC documentary *Katiza's Journey*.

Mrs Sisulu, the nurse in Dr Asvat's surgery, yesterday denied that the writing on a crucial patient record card was hers. If verified, the card, belonging to Katiza Cebekulu – the so-called missing witness in the Winnie scandal – would have completely undermined Mrs Mandela's alibi in the Stompie case.

There was more disappointment for Dr Asvat's family and Stompie Seipei's mother, Joyce, who have put their faith in the TRC. Mrs Sisulu said she had no knowledge of a "volcanic row" alleged to have erupted between Mrs Mandela and Dr Asvat hours before his murder.

Mrs Sisulu gave an emotional account of how she heard two shots and Dr Asvat's scream before finding him lying in his consulting room bleeding from his chest and gasping for breath. Mrs Sisulu claimed she and the doctor were like mother and son. But she said that if he had trouble with Mrs Mandela he never told her.

Like other ANC figures who have testified, Mrs Sisulu seemed evasive. She was unable to explain the discrepancy between what she told the BBC and her evidence yesterday.

TRC Commissioner Dumisa Ntsebeza was the only one with the courage to take on an icon. He suggested Mrs Sisulu, like other ANC members, was hedging on anything that would implicate Mrs Mandela.

"Is it because the Mandela and Sisulu families have come a long way together...?" he asked, referring to her husband Walter's lifelong journey with President Nelson Mandela, and her own friendship, long ago soured, with Mrs Mandela. "Is it because you wouldn't like to be the one identified in South African history to speak about your comrade ... as being involved in the death of Dr Asvat?"

Mr Ntsebeza was rewarded with tears and angry indignation. Mrs Sisulu reeled off her long years of sacrifice for the movement. "I am not here to tell lies," she said bitterly. Even Mr Ntsebeza had not the stomach to continue.

Yesterday's hearing was marred by many allegations – from Commission investigators and those called to testify witnesses – that Mrs Mandela was intimidating witnesses. TRC investigators have been told by potential witnesses that they have been visited by "Mama" or called to her Soweto home. One of those witnesses was last night proving "difficult to locate."

At the end of yesterday's hearing few would have hazarded a guess as to the behind-the-scenes political machinations. If the ANC leadership is hanging Mrs Mandela out to dry – it opposes her standing for deputy leadership of the party later this month – why did the ANC's Mathews Phosa, the first senior member to show support, turn up yesterday?

More galling still is the question why did he choose to kiss Mrs Mandela immediately after a tearful witness claimed Mrs Mandela had ordered Dr Asvat's murder. The Asvat family were still weeping when the embrace took place.

A woman suffering from river blindness, one of the pictures in a two-week exhibition at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral Photograph: Tom Stoddart

Short draws attention to Africa's scourge of river blindness

River blindness is the fourth most common cause of blindness in the world. Seventeen million Africans are infected with the disease. And yet, it can easily be be controlled. A relatively simple treatment – a tablet taken annually – can stop the disease in its tracks.

A week-long series of international meetings began in Liverpool yesterday to address the problems of river blindness, in the hope of extending the existing control programme.

The programme is already one of the World Health Organisation's largest projects. Eleven African countries form part of the programme; 19 more, which are also affected by river blindness, do not.

Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, opened an exhibition by the prize-winning photographer Tom Stoddart showing the impact of the disease and the efforts to contain it.

Ms Short said the campaign was "an example of what can be achieved when there is a clear focus, determined effort and true partnership".

The exhibition is organised by the charity, Sight Savers International, which funded early research into the project. — *Steve Crawshaw*

• *Sight Savers River Blindness Exhibition, Liverpool Anglican Cathedral until 14 December.*
• *Sight Savers International, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH15 4BX. 01444 412424*

Snap It Up!

intel inside pentium II

The New Viglen PIC 233

233MHz Pentium® II Processor based system with FREE Digital Camera worth £349.

£1399.00 exc. del. & VAT

£1661.45 inc. del. & VAT

FREE

The Viglen PIC 233 features the newly launched Pentium® II Processor – the fastest and most powerful PC processor on the market today.

What's more, for a limited period only, we are including a FREE Casio digital camera (worth £349 at retail), a PC connection kit and photo editing software.

It's the perfect family PC combination. You get all the power you and your family could possibly need and a camera that lets you see pictures instantly. And with the PC connection kit, you can transfer your captured photographs onto calendars, greeting cards, postcards, desktop publishing and even websites. To snap up this limited offer, call Viglen direct today.

Viglen PIC 233

• Intel 233MHz Pentium® II processor • Desktop case • 32MB RAM • 3.5GB IDE Hard Disk • 512k Cache • 3D graphics with 2MB • On board sound with wavetable • 24 speed CD ROM • 33.6Kbps voice/fax modem with Internet access • 15" colour monitor with built-in stereo speakers • Keyboard • Microsoft® Intellimouse • 2 Serial, 1 Parallel, 2 PS/2 and 2 USB ports • 3.5" floppy drive • Microsoft® Windows 98 • Microsoft® Works • MGI Photo Suite image manipulation package

CASIO Digital Camera

• Model DV-10A • 2Mb FLASH memory storing up to 96 images • Built-in 1.8" TFT colour LCD monitor • Automatic light and exposure metering • Macro Lens for close ups • 270° Swivel lens • Easy transfer of images to your PC • Supplied with PC connection kit and software

Buy Now Pay April '98 £53.05

For more information or to place your order Tel 0990 39 39 39
9am – 6pm Weekdays 9am – 5pm Saturday 10am – 4pm Sundays. Calls charged at National Rate
fax 0181 758 7080
web http://www.viglen.co.uk
Viglen Limited, Viglen House, Alperton Lane, Alperton, Middlesex HA0 1DX.

Viglen is a registered trademark of Viglen Limited. The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Microsoft Works and Windows logo are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. All other trademarks are acknowledged. Prices correct at time of going to press. 15" – 14" viewable. *Easy 20% monthly payment scheme available subject to status. 10% deposit £166.15 followed by 36 monthly payments of £53.05 (APR 19.9%). Viglen Limited is a licensed credit broker.

Great Minds Think Viglen

Porn crusaders have Internet in their sights

Several of the biggest US online and media companies were queuing up yesterday to offer curbs on obscene material on the Internet. *Mary Dejevsky in* **Washington says their offers were designed to fend off calls for compulsory regulation.**

The sudden rush by such giants as the Walt Disney Co and America Online to propose their own, voluntary, policing of the Internet was timed to coincide with the opening of a high-profile national "summit" on the Internet and children. The voter-appeal of the subject in an America where the idea – if not the fact – of family values is sacrosanct and where children are among the most computer-literate in the world, can hardly be overestimated.

Companies involved, either through sponsorship or participation in the conference, include Microsoft and Time Warner, major telecommunications groups like AT&T and MCI, a clutch of "Moral Majority" groups concerned with the welfare of children.

The politicians have been swift to jump on the bandwagon. Among the speakers at the three-day "summit" in Washington are Vice-President Al Gore, who recently passed up a lunchtime speaking engagement on global warming in favour of posing for the cameras with a V-chip (the device that bars access to suspect computer material) – and the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich.

No politician who has an eye on election, or re-election, can afford to appear indifferent to an issue that has worked the millions of Middle American churchgoers and their Southern Baptist counterparts into a lather of indignation.

For parents, especially those living in the salubrious suburbs of big cities, the Internet represents a new threat, and one they feel ill-equipped to counter. Having moved out of the city to provide their children with safe surroundings, good schools and wholesome values, they see the Internet as the channel of a hostile incursion that they may be unable to control. They want their child to have a computer, because they have been told that computer literacy is a prerequisite for educational success, yet their children's facility with new technology, which often surpasses their own, makes them uneasy about what they may see.

Already, there are a series of blocking mechanisms that parents can use to limit or monitor children's access to the Internet. One parent of an 11-year-old girl, writing in the *Washington Post* yesterday, complained his daughter regularly received obscene messages sent to her e-mail address. But he was reluctant to restrict messages to an approved list of senders as her old friends might not be able to find her e-mail address.

America Online – appreciating that this week's conference will draw attention to the problem – is posting on its introductory page options that include restricting access by, for example, age-range.

Many parents, however, believe that such safeguards are insufficient. They want to make Online companies criminally liable for disseminating obscene material to minors.

A law to that effect was overturned this summer by a landmark judgment of the Supreme Court, which ruled that the interests of free speech overrode those of protecting one group of the population.

That decision, however, only inspired the pro-family groups and others to continue their fight for stronger controls, as well as providing the impetus for this week's conference.

Pupil shoots classmates

Eight students were wounded, some critically, in a barrage of gunfire in the lobby of a western Kentucky high school yesterday. The students were taking part in prayers at Heath High School when another student apparently opened fire, WKYX radio reported.

The suspect was arrested immediately after the shooting. Eight students were reported admitted at hospitals in nearby Paducah. One boy was admitted for boy emergency surgery. — *AP, West Paducah*

US urged to defend cities

The US should reorientate its defence effort to concentrate on smaller, more flexible and high-tech operations, a new report says, and cater for possible attacks on major US cities.

The recommendations are made by the National Defense Panel, a joint military-civilian group charged by the US Congress with reviewing the country's defence priorities to 2020. The report questions several cherished military procurement programmes and calls for closer coordination between the different arms of the military.

The proposals conflict with the thrust of the military's own Quadrennial Defence Review, which was completed this spring, and presage a hard-fought battle over the future structure of the US armed forces. — *Mary Dejevsky, Washington*

Russia holds American businessman on spying charges

The United States' grudging response to Moscow's intervention in the Iraq crisis has injected a seasonal frostiness into relations between the former Cold War foes, but yesterday the chill deepened with the announcement that an American is being held in Russia on spying charges.

The man was arrested a week ago by agents from Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), who claim he was found taking land surveys of sensitive sites using satellite transmitters which had been brought into Russian illegally. Publicity surrounding the arrest of the American – named by the Russians as Richard Bliss, a businessman from a communications company based in San Diego, California – prompted an immediate rebuttal from the US embassy in Moscow.

A spokesman said he had no connection with the US government and was "certainly not a spy". The spokesman confirmed that a second American had been questioned and released.

This is the first instance of spying allegations being levelled at a US citizen since August 1995, when a US army captain was deported. According to the Russian news agency Interfax, Mr Bliss is accused of obtaining secret information about buildings in Rostov and nearby Bataisk, while allegedly doing survey work. — *Phil Reeves, Moscow*

Here's a new way to feed toddlers that takes the biscuit (for 'biscuit', read 'broccoli')

Looking for a challenge? Climb Everest? Do a degree in astrophysics? How about 'persuade toddlers to eat vegetables'. It reduces the most rational and competent parents to jabbering stupidity and leaves the kids full of crisps and chocolates. A very bad thing indeed. Now, as *Sarah Lonsdale*, reports, help is really at hand.

Changing tastes: with a Food Dudes video as a starter, scenes like this could soon be a thing of the past Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Natasha Chamberlain, a teacher and the mother of two-and-a-half-year-old Thomas is a normal, sane, rational human being. But when it comes to getting her son to eat a proper meal she becomes, as she herself admits, "a headless chicken".

"Mealtime gradually degenerates into farce," she says. "We start off quite sensibly enough, but at his first refusal of food, I bring out a selection of books which I start reading to him to try and distract him. That works for a few more bites and then he decides to get down and I end up chasing him round the kitchen with spoonfuls of food. He finds this quite amusing and stops to take a bite every so often. After a bit he refuses even this and I end up bribing him with the promise of chocolate buttons."

Michaela Hallworthy, mother of Enrico, also two, lines up a menagerie of plastic farm and zoo animals, which *all* have to be fed before Enrico accepts a bite. "If this doesn't work I have to threaten to eat his supper myself and sometimes I end up eating most of his meal, which he finds very funny and no doubt very satisfying," she says.

It may sound bizarre, especially to those who have not tried to feed a toddler recently. But it is all too common and rather disturbing. There is growing concern about the amount of junk food children eat today and the knowledge that establishing healthy eating habits early can prevent heart disease and other ailments in later life. And the converse is, of course, that it is parents who are failing to establish these habits.

But help is at hand. Over the past five years a team of psychologists from the University of Wales at Bangor has been at work on the project and the results, to be published next spring, have been nothing short of spectacular. They have managed to get young children so enthusiastic about fruit and vegetables that not only at mealtimes do the children eat all their greens, but when offered healthy snacks alongside chocolate and crisps, the children now choose the healthy snacks. What's more, on supermarket shopping expeditions, 75 per cent of parents reported that their converted children asked them specifically to buy fruits and vegetables they had never requested before including oranges, apricots, kiwi fruit, beans, broccoli, cucumber and even the dreaded spinach.

"We started from the rather optimistic assumption that almost any child can learn to eat *almost any food*," says Professor Fergus Lowe, head of the school of Psychology at Bangor. "That is, although there are some biological constraints – children do have a predisposition to favour sweet and salty foods – eating is a fundamentally learned behaviour." He uses as an example the fact that children of South American Indians are perfectly happy eating monkeys, grubs, bees and headlice because that is what they have learned to eat alongside their parents.

The average British school child's diet has long given cause for concern. Surveys regularly report that children eat too much junk food and saturated fats and not enough fresh fruit and vegetables. British children are getting heavier and fatter and are carrying this extra weight into adulthood, leading to an increasing propensity for people to suffer from cardiovascular disease and cancer. The latest National Diet and Nutrition Survey for pre-schoolers, published in 1994, revealed that many toddlers suffer from vitamin deficiencies because of the lack of fresh greens in their diets. The survey revealed that the foods eaten by 70 per cent of the children surveyed were biscuits, white bread, soft drinks, savoury snacks, chips and confectionery. Less than a quarter of the children ate raw vegetables and salad. In addition, the survey revealed that in the 30 years since the last comparable survey children have become heavier.

"Even the most responsible and careful parent has trouble persuading their child to eat the right sort of food," says Professor Lowe. "The trouble is that junk foods, sweets and salty snacks are so widely *available that it is impossible to keep one's* toddler away from them."

Professor Jane Wardle, a psychologist at University College London's Health Behaviour Unit, is also working on the toddler-feeding problem and whether the parent's attitude towards the child's eating has an effect on how the child approaches the meal.

"We have conducted studies to show that the offer of rewards for eating vegetables has a detrimental effect on the child's perception of the food," she says. "Children who were offered a sticker for eating their vegetables up would eat the food but when the offer of a reward was withdrawn, the consumption of the vegetables immediately declined. It was as if the offer of the reward somehow sent a message to the child that the vegetable was not worth eating for its own sake."

She also says that distraction – reading books, singing, feeding cuddly toys and other animals – is also counter-productive: it devalues the action of eating the food.

"Parents complain about the vicious circle they get into – a child refuses lunch, containing a good balance of vegetables, fruit, carbohydrates and protein. The child then gets hungry and ratty in the afternoon so the parent gives them a biscuit or a cake, thus ruining their appetite for a healthy meal in the evening."

She says that after about the age of two, a reasonably growing child should have very little fat on them, and should remain skinny until the age of about seven, when they start to accumulate fat again. "The later a child starts to put fat on again, the more chance they have of becoming a slim adult." She added that because children are fatter than 30 years ago, parents worry that their four-year-old is skinny, if his friends are all on the chubby side. But a skinny four-year-old should be the norm she says.

So, how can we get our toddlers to eat their greens? Enter the Food Dudes, a creation of the team at Bangor. These super heroes, cartoon children led by the fearless Jasper, are depicted in videos fighting *the forces of evil in the form of the* Junk Food Junta. Children in the Bangor study, whose uptake of fruit and vegetables was sometimes as low as 1 per cent, were asked to watch the videos before mealtime, then offered some of the food used in the video. The Food Dudes enthusiastically ate a variety of vegetables and fruit including kiwi fruit, celery and blackeye beans and exhorted the viewer to do likewise in their struggle against the Junk Food Junta. In return, the children were offered rewards, such as Food Dude caps, lunch boxes and T-shirts if they ate 75 per cent of the target food.

"The results were astonishing," says Professor Lowe. "In each case, the consumption of the target food, often refused before, rose to 100 per cent. One child, for example, who before watching the video had claimed: 'I don't like kiwi, I hate kiwi', and pushed the plate away, after watching the video not only ate all the fruit up, but was caught trying to steal an extra kiwi fruit from her mother's fruit store." More importantly, six months after the trial, consumption of kiwi fruit was at 80 per cent, and even consumption of celery and beans was at about 33 per cent – far higher than before the trial.

The team operated a control mechanism where the rewards were offered without the child watching the video, and where the child watched the video without being offered a reward. In each case, the results were far less satisfactory than when the video and rewards were used in combination. "We have seen that offering rewards, or bribes in isolation, do not work. But if they are offered as part of an entire system, using these peer models to whom the children relate to, then they do work," says Professor Lowe.

One child involved in the study, six-year-old Marec Kennett, now actually asks his mother Janina to buy spinach for him at the supermarket.

"Before we got involved, Marec was only really enthusiastic about a narrow range of fruit such as satsumas and bananas. He didn't really want to try new vegetables, which meant I was limited in what I gave him," says Janina, who admits she was sceptical about the Food Dudes. "The change was almost overnight. And because Marec was asking for a wider variety of fruit and vegetables such as apricots, prunes, green beans and mango, the whole family has benefited. I thought he would get bored with the video, but no. Every night he would chant the song: "If I eat my fruit tonight, General Junk will get a fright."

The Bangor team are now working with schools and the Government to see how the Food Dudes can be made available nationwide.

TODDLER FEEDING DOS AND DON'TS

- Do not offer rewards or bribes for eating food, unless as part of a system such as the Food Dudes.
- Do not try to distract the child by singing songs or reading books.
- Never force a child to eat something he or she doesn't want. Calmly remove the plate and try again at a later time.
- Do not offer a toddler who has refused lunch a biscuit in the middle of the afternoon. Try again with the refused lunch or a healthy snack such as an apple.
- Do not take "I hate broccoli" as written in stone. What a toddler hates one day he may love the next.
- If a toddler is really difficult about vegetables try with the sweeter ones such as peas, carrots and parsnips first.

The secret's in the fingertips

***Julia Kaminski* had no idea what a physiotherapist could do for her, until she discovered Greg...**

Dear Greg,
I just wanted you to know that I danced last Friday, for the first time in six months. I know you'll be pleased, because it's all thanks to you.

When I limped into your physio department a few weeks ago, my anterior cruciate ligament torn, my confidence in tatters and my sex appeal down the drain, one of the first things you asked me was what did I want to achieve? Did I want to play sports again? Did I want to ski again? (A resounding no, since a bad fall was what got me into this mess.) I wanted to dance, I told you...

So you set to work, a little massage oil here, a length of masking tape there, and put me to work on the cycle and the wobble board. You waved a plastic knee at me and explained how it works, and told me what I'd done and why I would never be whole again, and what I could expect if I worked hard.

Until this time, my knowledge of what physios do had been sketchy, to say the least. I knew they manipulated joints, that they were often brought in to work on post-operative patients, like myself, but that was it. You explained how misunderstood is the poor old physio: how they can cure back and neck problems; correct almost every mechanical fault in the body; ease the suffering of arthritis; solve mysterious cases of RSI (repet*itive strain injury*); *get people mobile* again after surgery and months in plaster or on crutches. I met the young lads with knee injuries like mine, desperate to get back on the football field. I met elderly people who had endured amputations after blood clots or accidents, being re-educated to make them as mobile as possible. This was a real eye-opener, for it is easy to forget that this happens here, too, and is not just the vile result of landmines in some distant war zone.

You put masking tape on my chunky knee and made me walk in front of a mirror, critical of every step. But you knew exactly what would hurt, and where, and how much, and I quickly learned that in your expert hands the pain eased rapidly. Through massage and manipulation, you got my wooden leg working again. Before long, I was using the trampoline. With any luck and a lot of hard work, you told me, I may never have to face the big ligament-reconstruction that leaves you with a scar about a foot long.

My knee will never be perfect, so I have to compensate for the lost ligament by building up the quads and hamstrings, and this means exercising fiercely several times a week, for the rest of my life. You told me I would still have to frequent the gym even when I'm 60.

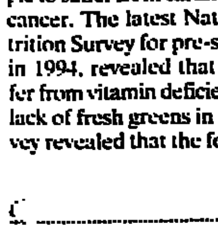
What joy when, on only my third visit, I left my crutches and my limp at home. Only a few weeks later, and I was cycling, lifting weights with my legs, bouncing up and down on the trampoline, and the elderly patients were saying I looked about ready for the marathon. And I knew I couldn't have done it without you.

You told me once about how you got your hands on Baby Spice while standing in for a sick friend in private practice. In the NHS, you only get fallen skiers like me.

I asked you once if it ever got depressing. No, you said, when you see how much help you can give patients, it makes it all worthwhile, and when you're feeling sorry for yourself because your rugby isn't going well, you look around and realise how lucky you are to be healthy (aside from the odd broken nose).

So I just wanted to tell you, dear physio, that you've given me back my knee and my confidence, and next time I'm out dancing, I'll drink a toast to your health.

Love, Julia



DR PHIL HAMMOND

Road rage might make you nicer to your wife. Me, I prefer a subtler form of anger management

"People keep blathering on about how awful road rage is. Well, I need it. It's an essential part of my life. It gets out all of my frustration at the end of the day. If I don't get the chance to wind down the window and yell 'for ****'s sake, you dozy cow' on the way home, I take it out on my wife. It ruins the whole evening. But if I've had a good rant, I'm as sweet as pie. I've banged on a few roofs, but I've never hit anyone or forced a car off the road. So what's the problem?"

My mate Bob sees his road rage as some sort of necessary catharsis, and on the few occasions I've driven with him, I've wished I hadn't. Ironically, it was the same Bob who cured me of the delusion that the expression of aggression was a good thing.

For as long as I can remember, I've been prone to bouts of violent temper. I blame the red hair; my mother thinks it was because our dad died when we were kids. Whatever the cause, I swallowed Freud's view that aggression, like flatus, was better out than in. Allow it to damn up, and mental illness results. So I took up rugby.

Being ludicrously short-sighted, I had no fear and I waded in recklessly. I had my nose broken several times, but usually felt better for it. At Girton, the team consisted of 14 swotty myopics who had to be pointed in the right direction and Bob, who had somehow got into Cambridge with his eyesight intact.

We won a surprising number of matches given the haze we were playing in, and started an unsurprising number of fights given that we couldn't see what we were treading on.

In the second year, I was made captain and wore contact lenses so I could greet the opposing captain and rally the troops. I took it very seriously, but Bob took the piss. When I tried to lead the Girton haka, a deeply spiritual and skeletally impossible warm-up exercise that involved stamping your feet and punching the air simultaneously, Bob stood outside the circle, fag in hand, and laughed. What hope has a team got when it can't even show respect for its own haka?

From that day, the bubble was burst. Bob convinced me that I looked like a jerk when I tried to get angry, and I convinced myself that playing in contact lenses was a lot more scary because you could spot the hard bastard on the other side. I didn't stop playing rugby, but I could never get into it in the same way. When I moved to St Thomas's, the captain tried to rouse us with "If we lose today, we'll have to live with that defeat" speech and I laughed. I wasn't selected after that.

I thought I'd miss the Saturday afternoon violence and take it out on other people, but I didn't. I dabbled with satire (Freud's "socially acceptable sublimation of aggression") and read up on anger. There's no evidence that expending your aggression on a sport's field or in a car makes you any less aggressive when you've finished. On the contrary, aggression just seems to breed more aggression. Those who indulge in contact sports exhibit far more daily aggression in season than out of it. The reason they find it cathartic is not because legally controlled violence makes you mellow afterwards – it doesn't – but simply that they enjoy being aggressive.

Road rage isn't legal or controlled, but I suspect there are a fair few people like Bob who do it because they get a kick out of it, and they know that if they take it out on a complete stranger, they probably won't *have to face the repercussions.* Bob isn't a doctor but he does a bloody stressful job. So had he tried anger management? "What, you mean pulling into a lay-by and listening to Radio 3? Sod off. I'm very happy with the way I manage my anger as it is."

As for me, I've found a brilliant solution to road rage. It's called artificial saliva, available over the counter for people without much real saliva. It's great for public speaking, when one end of your gut goes dry and the other end goes moist, and when you squirt it on your tongue it actually tastes like someone's spat in your mouth.

But best of all, I keep it in the glove compartment for when someone cuts me up. In*stead of ramming them or* swearing or doing anything that might reflect badly on my profession, I calmly lower my window and fire off a few squirts, without a hint of anger. Virtual gobbing. You know it makes sense.

S.A.D.?
SAD is Seasonal Affective Disorder or Winter Depression For VAT FREE an information pack about SAD and details of light therapy and our exclusive HOME TRIAL system, please get in touch.
Outside In. (the Body Clock Company), Freepost 1071BN748, Cambridge CB3 7BR
☎ 01954 211955

هكذا من الأصل

'I take upon myself the passion and the hysteria of the sacrifice so that you are spared'

Don't believe all they say. Hermann Nitsch loves animals. He really, really does. He especially loves cutting them open and plunging his hands deep inside. It gives him the same feeling, he says, as listening to Beethoven or Bach: 'Stars, planets and suns.' *Imogen O'Rorke* meets a master of mysteries.

There is some sort of orgy going on in the ICA's Nash room. Members of the public, pistachio-munching and Merlot-swilling, are crowding in, drawn by the marching beat of the snare drum and crescendoing zombie vocals emanating from TV screens at the back.

On the left monitor, a man swaddled in white is being carried to the foot, or rather head, of an eviscerated and crucified lamb. On the right, a table is being prepared for a Dionysian feast: grapes, tomatoes and fish are rent apart and brilliant paint is poured on; and, in the centre, someone posing as St Sebastian has entrails strapped to his side with bandages, which are then poked about while more body fluids, blood and wine are poured on. This stuff makes Damien Hirst look positively boil-in-the-bag.

A little man in black with a long beard is darting about, co-ordinating this extraordinary mass, which he calls "The Orgies Mysteries Theatre". He is Hermann Nitsch, the artist whose "action painting" was considered so dangerous by the city of Vienna in the Sixties that he was thrown into prison several times for crimes of indecency. He is now, of course, a national treasure.

The return of one of the art world's most extreme extremists to London (the last time he visited, in 1966, his performance outside the ICA was broken up by the police and the curators were prosecuted) has brought together Nitsch *aficionados* from all over to hear him talk: some dedicated followers of his creed, others just heard a rumour that some guy had planned his own crucifixion and came along out of curiosity.

When Nitsch first preached his doctrine of "abreaction" (the unblocking of repressed energies) through the theatre of cruelty in 1962, most people's experience of violence and sensual gratification was limited to Westerns and Mills and Boon.

"I take upon myself the apparently negative, unsavoury, perverse, obscene, the passion and the hysteria of the sacrifice so that you are spared the sullying, shaming and descent into the extreme," he declared, Baptist-like. (More recent manifestos have taken on a Christ/Kurtz-like dimension: "I AM THE PAINTER who SLAUGHTERS and HUNTS the ANIMAL FOR YOU".) The same year he made the headlines with fellow Vienna Actionists Otto Mühl and Gunter Brüs when all three walled themselves up in a cellar for three days with alcohol, sculpture materials and a crucified lamb.

The time is right to unleash Nitsch again. The now world-famous artist has chosen an "underground" gallery in London's Old Street for the retrospective. It is 35 years after the ICA's fated "Destruction in the Arts" show and the institute is hosting a new "Violence and the Arts" conference this month (note "violence" and "arts" now go hand in hand). The question is, have attitudes to censorship changed that much?

Could it be that larger art establishments are still frightened off by the inflammatory content (entrails, mutilated genitalia, urine, aborted foetuses) of Nitsch's work? Previous contracts – one from the National Gallery of Scotland, another to mount a production of Massenet's *Hérodiade* (a version of the Salome story) at the Royal Opera House – have been pulled due to last-minute panics.

Nitsch believes his work is "misunderstood" in 1997 more than ever. Modern-day activists regard him as a butcher and a sadist and yet, he insists, he "luffs" animals. He is poised on a wooden chair at the Underwood Street gallery with a flowing grey beard, his belly rising and falling heavily in his morning suit after an afternoon nap, looking more like Van Gogh's postman than the scourge of the *Daily Mail* reader.

Endearingly, even, he lists the animals at his farm in Prinzendorf, Austria: "two dankey, cows, sheeps, peacock, geese..." He stresses that 90 per cent of the animals he uses are slaughtered at their natural age and humanely. He rails at the meat factories ("very bad places") where animals are deprived of light.

Nitsch is pro-life in the pagan sense. "What I do is create a great feast. A feast of life," he says boisterously. "I believe an artist is like a priest. That's why I wear black. I am always full of jokes. I like to eat, drink and luff. Living a life of the moment – that's my religion." A 20th-century Dionysus? "*Ja*!! Except Dionysus is more than a god. It's a... structure, philosophy."

He describes a moment of Eucharistic "mysticism" when he puts his hands deep into the cavity of the slaughtered animal (a metaphor for setting free the animal in man). "It's the same as when I listen to Bach, Bruckner or Beethoven... as King Oedipus when he comes, his eyes streaming, screaming and crying – then he is a man like Jesus Christ. Then I have the feeling of the whole world, stars, planets and suns. Art can do this."

Nitsch was brought up in the small Catholic village of Prinzendorf and had an early interest in religion, later poetry. He suffered during the war: when he was six, Vienna was bombed by the "enemy" and the middle-class life he knew was utterly destroyed. An English curator, in the dock on charges of indecency, was later to defend Nitsch's work as an attempt to expiate Nazi guilt.

Since the war, Nitsch, a staunch pacifist, has waged his own war against politicians and everything "mediocre, lukewarm and cosy" about modern life. "I want people to wake up to their subconscious," he says. "Most are dreaming." The inscription on his £300 book *The Fall of Jerusalem* reads "In times without wars, it's necessary to create them in tragedies".

Just as the central paradox of Nitsch's work is the celebration of life through the pathological performance, so the tumescent irony of his artistic life is that he has often been mistaken for a sort of S&M black pope (after the style of Anton Szandor La Vey) rather than the leader of fertility rites (in the style of Father Christmas) he would truly appear to be.

His work is saturated with the philosophy of Nietzsche, Jung, Freud, Eastern mysticism, positivism and cosmic philosophy. "Luff" is his ultimate goal, he says, and "understanding the broad spectrum of 'luff' – joy to tragedy and Heaven and Hell". He counts among his fans several Catholic priests who are only too happy to exhibit his less messy Crucifixions above their altars.

'In my work you smell the entrails and the blood and the wine': Hermann Nitsch will stop at almost nothing in his necrophiliac quest to wake us up to our collective subconscious

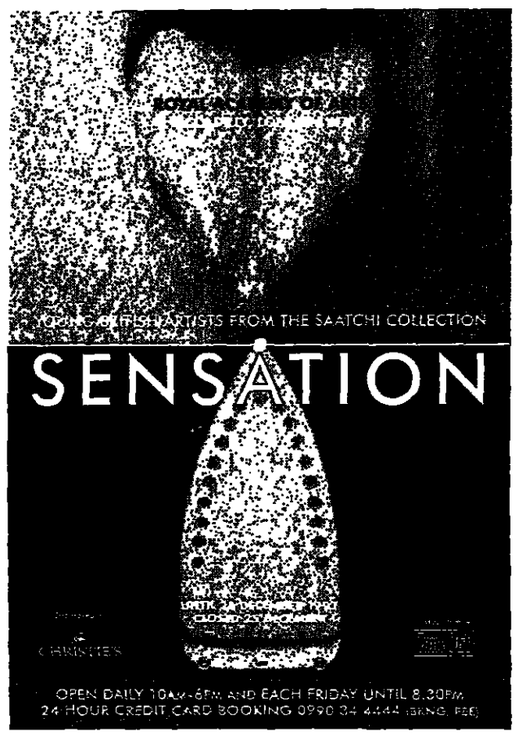
Nitsch is no advocate of cinematic violence. "The way they kill on television is a nonsense. It is pretty and clean – you can eat and drink to it," he says. It lacks catharsis. "In my work you smell the entrails and blood and wine. I have never known people to become aggressive after my shows."

Nitsch is planning to perform his famous six-day "action" next summer. It promises to do for blood what Glastonbury did for mud last year. He thinks a society that "represses aggression" needs his macabre theatre more than ever. Paedophilia, necrophilia are all acceptable territory. "It is necessary that the artist speaks very, very loudly about these things. Science and art should show everything. Everything." It is not a question of morality.

Nitsch has not yet realised his dream of practising his art on human cadavers (in this, his followers are more radical – one boasted after the ICA talk that he *had* used real corpses). Nor would he ever consider taking a human life: "Looking at war photography is where my voyeurism ends," he says.

As for the rumours about his own crucifixion, Nitsch laughs so much he has to have a glass of water. "If I hurt so much as a little bit, I would give up the art straight away. In this, I think, the journalists are more radical than the artist!" he jokes. He has, however, generously volunteered his body "for young British artists" after his death.

Hermann Nitsch's work is on show at 30 Underwood Street, London N1 to February 1998.



MAKING & MEANING
HOLBEIN'S AMBASSADORS
THE 1997 ESSO EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY
5 NOVEMBER 1997 – 1 FEBRUARY 1998
Closed 24–26 December and 1 January
(Closes 6pm Wednesday 31 December)

ADMISSION FREE
MONDAY TO SATURDAY 10AM–6PM
WEDNESDAY UNTIL 8PM
SUNDAY 12NOON–6PM
GALLERY INFORMATION: 0171-747 2885
TRAFALGAR SQUARE, LONDON WC2
THE NATIONAL GALLERY
IN ASSOCIATION WITH ESSO UK PLC
Esso

Beatle fan who still has fairies at the bottom of his garden

As the Royal Academy's current show celebrates the Victorian age's fascination with fairies, *Andrew Lambirth* talks to Peter Blake, an artist who is unashamed to admit that he still believes in them.

The man who so memorably designed the *Sgt Pepper* album cover and pays such devoted tribute to the likes of Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe, is convinced that fairies exist. He has painted several of them, imaginary portraits of Titania and Puck from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and various flower fairies. If not children, they tend to be female, either portrait heads or nearly naked and extravagantly breasted.

There is a lambent sexuality to these images, an edginess not far from the surrealist frisson, yet verging on innocence rather than lubriciousness. There is also a delicacy of touch, a useful juvenescence of imagery matched by a meditative distancing, that distinguishes these other-worldly portrayals. Blake's fairy paintings are as oddly disquieting as the best the Victorians could throw at us.

"I was always interested in illustration, and the fairy illustrators Rackham and Dulac and Maxwell Parrish, from very early on in the Fifties. I had a big collection of illustrated books. But I think what triggered painting fairies was the birth of my daughter, Liberty, in 1968, and the idea of moving to the country. Suddenly I was making pictures for her."

This was the period when Blake and a group of like-minded fellow painters set up the Brotherhood of Ruralists, in conscious emulation of the Pre-Raphaelites. (Blake himself bears an uncanny physical resemblance to Dante Gabriel Rossetti.) "Having a daughter made me think, did I want to believe in fairies?" It was a conscious choice: because Blake was never persuaded of their non-existence, he chose rather to believe.

"When I first started painting fairies, I thought very carefully about them and made lists of their characteristics. I decided – and this I find to be traditional – that any gradations would be in size rather than in wealth or class. So Titania and Oberon would be the biggest and their courtiers would be slightly smaller, going down to the very tiny little fairies who were the equivalent of workers, I suppose.

"I was living in Somerset by then, and I worked out that, if they lived anywhere in the village, they'd live down by the river. I worked out a way that they'd probably dress. Titania is wearing boots made from dockleaves tied round her ankles. And anywhere that can be decorated is – her pubic hair is plaited and daisies are entwined in it. She's wearing a necklace made of grass and a grass belt round her waist from which are hanging various bits that she's found: an old sparkplug, a piece of glass and a toy."

'As oddly disquieting as the best the Victorians could throw at us': Blake's 'Daisy Fairy', 1981-82

Tate Gallery

Blake deliberately made the painting very much of its time, not some kind of antique vision of playful sprites. The sense of otherness is balanced by the here-and-now solidity of the depiction.

Where does his inspiration come from? I ask him whether the portraits of Titania, for instance, were based on a real person or invented. "At that point I was often referring to a photograph of Twiggy's face, so certainly some of the features are Twiggy's, though it wasn't meant to be her, and it's certainly not her figure. But the mouth may well be Twiggy's. I rarely work from models."

What about other artists? "The fairy painters I knew about were Noel Paton – I knew both the Titania and the Oberon pictures in Edinburgh very well, in fact I've got a drawing by Paton of Titania's head – and I knew Fitzgerald and Richard Dadd. I suppose I knew the pictures that were available and made it my task to find out more about them. I would go to the Maas Gallery and look through their stock for drawings. I almost bought Richard Doyle's *The Fairy Tree* at one point for £3,000, if you can believe it." (It must be worth a hundred times that sum now.)

Blake's chief portrayal of Titania has changed considerably over the years of its evolution and it has been exhibited in different forms. "It became a kind of concept – the idea of showing a work developing. I must have showed it seven or eight times in different versions." Blake finds it notoriously difficult to finish paintings; they have virtually to be wrenched from his grasp. Even when sold, he will try to get them back to the studio to continue working on them.

"The other interesting thing about *Titania* is that the spectator gets involved in the picture. As the fairies ooze to the front of the picture, they hear the person who's looking at the picture and they stop and look out. A group of them stare straight at you, involving the viewer."

There is, in Blake's mind, a whole repertory company of characters who are capable of adapting to any role, ranging from strippers to wrestlers. "There was quite a fad for fairies in the Seventies. There was a sudden resurgence of interest and two or three people did books on gnomes and fairies, but it was almost on a gift-shop level." Blake's images were always more substantial and serious: he painted a series of flower fairies and aqua fairies and seaweed fairies, and they replaced the strippers as his primary girl-subject.

Are they moral or amoral? "I think fairies become a vehicle for what we want them to. If you want the concept of a naughty fairy, you read it in. The beautiful girl fairies tend to be good, I think. There's an edge of magic realism to them. The fairies I paint have the ability to make magic. Painting is the only medium in which you can really make magic – you can't in film or in any other medium."

When Blake returned to London in 1979 and ceased to be a Ruralist, he nevertheless reaffirmed his belief by painting the wonderfully titled *I may not be a Ruralist anymore, but this morning I saw a Fairy in my garden in Chiswick*. That was really a statement for the critics, but it stands as a personal credo as well. He still believes.

صكذا من الاصل

'I want you to tell me that you love me'

Roy Scheider in 'Jaws': 'One of the great tragedies of this world is that we turn into our parents'

REVELATIONS

The time: 1971
The place: New Jersey
The man: Roy Scheider, actor, star of *Jaws, French Connection, All that Jazz, Russia House*

It was terrible growing up with my father, he was a strict disciplinarian. He physically abused me and beat the hell out of me. My biggest crime was always opening my mouth and disagreeing with him: that was not tolerated at all. Unfortunately I was against almost everything he stood for: he was a blue collar worker, first a mechanical shop engineer and later a service station owner.

I was the oldest son and from the age of 11 he would come after me with his fists, chase me to another room and pummel me to the ground. I never fought back physically except when he made me put on boxing gloves and we would fight for fun! But he would never let me win.

When you're an adolescent you start to think for yourself and I realised that all the nonsense my father had been filling my head with was not particularly true. He was a man with deep prejudices: a racist and a sexist. As a way of becoming independent of him I had to find a voice. What amazes me was that I was quite willing to take the abuse in order to get my licks in and let him know that he wasn't fooling me. My mother was the Irish martyr who constantly defended my father, so when he attacked me she never came to my defence. I was alone. It was pretty frightening. Dealing with violence as a child makes you very gun shy and suspicious of authority.

I became an actor to escape, pumping all my energy into playing other people in order to avoid playing myself. I was making a decent living on Broadway and beginning to make a name in films. But I never had any recognition from my father.

In 1971, I was at home in Manhattan and I received a phone call from the producer of *The French Connection* telling me that I had been nominated for an Oscar as Best Supporting Actor. I immediately called my parents in New Jersey and got my mother on the line. I blurted out: "Guess what Ma?" She thought the news was wonderful and I heard her yell into another part of the house to tell my father, then she came back on the phone and we continued the conversation. I hung up and I started walking round the apartment in New York, something was troubling me. Finally I put my finger on it. Why didn't my father get up and come to the phone? Why didn't he say anything? I knew why – he was a man who just didn't do things like that. He didn't throw compliments around. With an Oscar nomination the whole world was recognising my ability – everybody, that is, except my father.

It made me feel really hurt. The feelings brewed for a couple of days until I decided to do something. I got in the car and drove over to my parents. I explained to my mother how I wanted to talk to my father alone and threw her out of the house.

When my father came home and sat down in the kitchen for his lunch, I told him: "I've spent the best part of my life trying to please you and to make you proud of me. But it doesn't seem to work, so this time I want you to tell me that you love me!" He looked at me as if I'd gone crazy but he replied: "You know I do." I was angry with him but also very determined: "Don't tell me what I know, don't tell me what you tell other people. Regardless of the past I want you to tell me now, right now, that you love me."

My father's face began to turn red and veins came out on his forehead and he choked out: "I love you." I thanked him and told him: "I love you too, but I wanted to hear you say it." I had finally asked him to act like a father. I got up and left the kitchen and nothing more was said. I told him what I needed and what I demanded and it felt good.

About a year later at a Christmas gathering I asked my mother if dad had ever talked about what was said that special day but he hadn't even mentioned it to her – not at all.

It was a turning point in my life because I had to face the fact that I had a father, like the one in my latest movie *Myth of the Fingerprints*, who just finds it impossible to be supportive and loving. Yet his admission did change things between us; it wasn't rosy or perfect from then on, but at least he had a different view of me. He would ask me what projects I was doing and he now had a new interest in me. He recognised that I was there – an individual distinct from him. All I ever got was the plain simple "I love you" – that's it. He certainly didn't phone and commiserate when I didn't win the Oscar. But it was enough, at last I had forced it out of the son of a bitch and I could go away with some dignity.

I became a man on that day, it was like a ritual or ceremony that I needed to move into another phase of my life.

Finally I figured that it was time for me to explore my own personality. It was most probably the richest vein I could tap, yet we're all a little reluctant to do it because we don't want to deal with the pain. Therapy became a lifeline. Finding someone to tell all this to who understood was vital. We all need support, especially if you're harbouring resentments like I did against my mother and father.

One of the great tragedies of this world is that we turn into our parents. I have an older daughter who's 34, and from my new marriage, a boy of eight and a girl of three. At my very worst I sound just like my father! A little boy of eight can become very irritable and stubborn. When I find myself screaming at him or getting out of control, that's the way my father would behave. It's terrible but at least I understand, which is more than my father did. At my very best, which thankfully is most days, I am not like him at all!

Knowing my father's difficulty with expressing his emotions was an enormous help to me when I played the father in *Myth of the Fingerprints*. It's about a dysfunctional family where nobody says what they're really thinking or feeling. It was a great opportunity to crawl into my own father's skin and realise how difficult it was for him. So it's been a valuable personal experience, too.

Interview by Andrew G Marshall

'Myth of the Fingerprints' is currently on general release.

There is no party like Carole Stone's Christmas party

She has 9,500 phone numbers on file and they are there because she's addicted to people. She is not rich, she is not famous, she was not born to power, but she is London's political hostess beyond compare. And tonight is her party night. *Martin McSheen* will be there.

Tonight, in an imposing old dollop of architectural confection not far from the Houses of Parliament, one of the year's great parties will take place.

There will be, on past form, a bewildering array of politicians, judges, showbiz types, media folk and authors. Labour left-wingers will rub shoulders with Tory peers. Newsreaders will fight over the peanuts with Tony Blair's Whitehall top guns. Trade union leaders will gossip with playwrights.

And the event? Merely the umpteenth annual Christmas do of a woman who has risen from a BBC copy typist in Southampton to be the last great political hostess in Britain, a unique networker and party-flinger. Carole Stone, now 55, is a phenomenon. There is no one remotely like her in the capital; and without her, the capital would be a duller place.

Her most prominent job was as producer for *Any Questions?* for most of the time from 1977 to 1989, having worked her way up through the BBC in Southampton and Bristol.

It was a big break, and she spent months reading *Vacher's Parliamentary Companion* each night before going to bed, until she could recognise every MP; even now, Stone is probably on friendly terms with more powerful people from all sides and professions than any single other person.

She always wanted to end up as Britain's answer to Oprah Winfrey, but, she says, despite a well-regarded pilot show in 1990, and some talk shows: "I never got a live audience, and never really had the magic to be a success."

She picked herself up and, encouraged by her partner Richard Lindley, a reporter for ITN's *News at Ten* special reports, began feeding her "insatiable appetite" for people by holding private lunches in a Covent Garden flat, entirely based on the only thing she could "cook" – tuna salad – at which a wide variety of people, such as John Birt, Tony Blair, Esther Rantzen and John Prescott, would meet. Now, she has moved on to evening "salons".

And, of course, her annual parties. She now has 9,500 people's addresses and telephone numbers on her personal contacts database (she has long outgrown a diary). This year it took her 10 days of constant slog to reduce the party list, first to 3,500, then to 2,500, and finally to around 1,800.

You get the picture? A rich, rather snobbish networker, a latter-day Lady Londonderry, in the pay of shadowy lobbyists ... But you would be wrong on every count.

Carole Stone is neither posh nor snobbish. She's a south-coast, working-class girl. The parties began as a means of introducing her beloved mum, Kathleen, now dead, to her friends. Tonight's one will include, along with numerous senior politicians and glittery TV people, her newsagent, her cleaner, aunts, uncles, friends from school, and so on. As Richard Lindley says, "the principle is that it's all types and conditions of women and men."

What about the money needed to finance these events? True, Carole Stone organises some lunches for a few company clients, but that's small potatoes; and despite offers to sponsor the drink and other costs of her famous parties, she refuses. One year, when she was a relative newcomer in London, the party cost her exactly £500 more than her annual salary. Now, she reckons to spend the same sum on a once-a-year, two-hour party that other people spend on their holidays. Even her strict rules, including buying the second-cheapest-available wine, in order to afford the maximum number of bottles, mean that the parties are a big personal extravagance.

So, in short – why?

"I'm just addicted to people. I can't bear to let people go," she says. "When the list got to 400, I thought, what do I do? But I wouldn't want to leave anybody off, and I can't bear not inviting nice new people – I always think, Oh shit, I haven't invited *them*; and I haven't invited *them* ... and so it just growed and growed."

It growed beyond the confines of the Reform Club, which put a limit of 250 on the party, and eventually called a halt when she was packing 650 in. Among the events that may have influenced them was an altercation involving a completely drunk journalist, and the gentle ejection of an even drunker newspaper editor, who had fallen over while pursuing a couple of waiters and split his trousers. Affairs have started at Stone parties, and ended there too. "One chap said he'd met six of his ex-lovers one year," Carole says happily.

Mostly, though, the pleasures of the Stone parties are like her lunches and salons. They are the gentler ones of the mingling of people from different worlds – John Major and Tony Benn, Peter Sissons and Bill Morris, Lynda La Plante and Bruce Kent – on friendly, neutral territory.

Carole Stone has never played Oprah. But – *sans* sofa, sans lights, sans camera – tonight she has a more dazzling audience than any chat show host can dream of. And a cheerier one, as well.

A pirate, a pioneer, a punk princess

The writer Kathy Acker, who died of cancer last Saturday, aged 53, was a revolutionary in mind and body and she did not recognise defeat.

BY SUZANNE MOORE

I suppose on paper Kathy Acker always sounded quite frightening. She wrote graphically about sex and violence, she had worked in the sex industry, she was part of the New York art scene, she had been photographed by Mapplethorpe, she talked endlessly of her body, her sex, her weight-training, her tattoos, her piercings. When I first saw in her in the mid-80s, speaking at the ICA, surrounded by her leather jacketed friends, she coolly declaimed her deconstructionist manifesto. She was a literary outlaw and she would take no prisoners.

In the flesh however, I found out, she was not scary at all. I soon found myself chatting to this tiny woman about jewellery and shopping and her motorbike and how much she fancied Moira Stuart, the news reader, who just happened to be at the same party where I had run into Kathy. She was funny and sharp and immensely vulnerable, her big eyes widening at any gossip you could tell her. She liked men, she liked women but she was often lonely and said so, citing it as one of the reasons for her continual transatlantic moves.

I didn't know her know her well but I admired her hugely. That does not mean that I liked everything she wrote, although some of it I liked very much indeed. It was important to me that she wrote the way she did about the things she did because the literary landscape that she aspired to was so irredeemably male. Her adoration of William Burroughs, the influence of the beat poets, her love of modernist experimentation and fierce understanding of post-structuralism meant that her subject matter was often language and identity itself. She was always asking what it meant to be a writer, cheerfully subverting the whole notion of authorship by openly plagiarising other writers' texts.

Such self-conscious cleverness, while celebrated in the hands of the right boy writers, often resulted in Acker being completely misunderstood by the critics. While *Blood and Guts in High School* was praised by many, much of her later work, such as *In Memoriam to Identity*, left the conservative literary establishment somehow incensed that anyone, let alone this weird-looking woman, should dare to play around with language like this.

So she would push further and further. She would read out loud in front of a group of feminists an imagined account of what it is like to rape a woman, she would write pornography with herself as the central character and like many avant-garde artists who proclaim alongside Barthes "the death of the author", she became a living embodiment of her art with her own cult following.

DAVID SILLITOE

This idea of breaking the power base of meaning itself is an idea shared by many avant-garde writers. Acker's take on it was also influenced by the work of many of the French post-war philosophers whose theories she wove into her fictions.

Yet what made Acker's work so exceptional was precisely the fact of her gender, the way her body and its desires kept erupting in the text and this body was unmistakably female. The word was made flesh – female flesh. Sometimes her work was difficult to read, refusing conventional narratives and pleasures, sometimes it was harrowing, sometimes, frankly, her experiments didn't work but when they did she produced writing that carried great visceral and intellectual charge.

To write like this, to live like this was, I imagine, a struggle. In her fifties Acker was still proclaiming herself a sexual outlaw, having new bits of herself pierced. To be at the cutting edge of sexual and literary experimentation is still I think a lot more difficult for a woman than it is for a man. But in the end the final struggle over her body and who defined what her body "meant" was the one she had with cancer. For some close to her, her refusal of orthodox medicine and reliance on alternative therapies was a form of denial that they could not comprehend in this brave and honest woman. She was no longer merely playing with "discourses" about the body but with life and death itself.

As ever she chose her own way. Ultimately she would not have the meanings of others imposed upon her. She was a remarkable woman, a remarkable writer, a pirate, a pioneer, a punk princess. I am sad that her adventures here have ended, that her flesh could never be as strong as her words. For her real strength lies in her writing – and that will remain as powerful, as passionate and as unique as ever.

Blair has chosen the short-sighted approach to reform

EDITOR: ANDREW MARR.
DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES.
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE,
CANARY WHARF,
LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000
OR 0171 345 2000
FAX: 0171 293 2435
OR 0171-345 2435

The Great Electoral Reform bandwagon got rolling yesterday, its panniers stocked with claret. There is a strong wind behind it. Mistrust of our political and administrative institutions blows a gale through successive surveys of public opinion and on 1 May helped to sweep the Tories from power. According to the latest British Social Attitudes survey many people have in recent years become enthusiastic constitutional reformers, though they are discriminating about what they want reformed, and how. It looked, when Tony Blair roped the Liberal Democrats into a joint cabinet committee on constitutional reform, that he was doing more than registering that public mood – he was seeking to steer it, too. Yesterday its first fruit, the bipartisan commission on methods of election to the House of Commons, took to the road.

But there is something wrong with the vehicle's bill of lading. It is not just the technical difficulty of reconciling the need for "broad proportionality" with the extension of voter choice and the maintenance of a link between MPs and geographical constituencies. That argues straightaway for something not unadjacent to the election method proposed for the Scottish assembly, with its unwanted consequence that electoral reform ends in strengthening the stranglehold of political party when what the public wants is to weaken it.

Our reservations are not about the driver, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead. The objection to the Electoral Reform Commission is that it represents the piecemeal, blinkered and essentially conservative nature of Labour thinking about the British constitution.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, denies that Labour is piecemeal in its approach. Yet the launch of the Jenkins commission gives telling evidence – for this reason. A rigorous examination of the franchise for the House of Commons is very necessary and Labour, very properly, has promised to lay the results of that thinkin before the people in a referendum. It is a time to don our anoraks or at least see Lords Jenkins, Alexander *et al* don them on our behalf and debate the merits of different system of voting. But jokes about the detailed arithmetic of electoral method only go so far. Method embodies important principles, which speak to deficits in the representativeness of Parliament and dysfunction in its operation.

That is the point – it is Parliament that is lacking legitimacy, that fails to represent the people of the United Kingdom. Parliament contains two houses, let alone adjunct institutions such as the judicial committee of the House of Lords – our Supreme Court in all but name; it contains, still, aspects of the remaining power of the monarchy, Decisions about the future of the monarchy – which Tony Blair seems curiously unwilling to have made in public – can wait. But the House of Commons cannot properly be appraised and reformed in advance of decisions about the future of the Lords. If the House of Lords is to be recreated as a new second law-making chamber its nature and its electoral methods have to be considered alongside the functions and representativeness of the Commons.

That is not just to say that the constitution is a way of describing a political system, the parts of which are interdependent. Parliamentary reform is a single enterprise. A second chamber of Parliament replacing the House of Lords has to be representative if the laws its makes are to command assent. That does not, however, mean all its members have to be elected. Here is a rough sketch. Up to a fifth of the members of a second chamber might be nominated on the basis of agreement between all the major parties. This does not have to be a recipe for blandness: there are many people, in business, in academe, in the professions who are not partisan but would make great candidates for taking part in deliberative government.

In its elective element, the second chamber might, analogously to the US Senate, seek to emphasise unity in diversity; the basis of its franchise might be large (regional) constituencies, ensuring that Scottish or Cornish residents acquired a voice. If so, the weight attached to territorial representativeness in elections to the House of Commons might be reduced.

Trust in the political system – enhancing which is surely one of the aims of the reform enterprise – hinges on participation in, and methods of taking part in a variety of representative bodies, local authorities and the European Parliament included. They might all eventually have different methods of election, alternative votes here, transferable onees there. Electoral pluralism is a virtue in a pluralist and diverse state. But Lord Jenkins has to bear in mind that the Commons and the Lords are twinned institutions. Their reform is urgent but it must go hand in hand.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor
and include a daytime telephone number.
Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.
Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Museum charges

Sir: In all the recent publicity about the threatened introduction of entry charges to national museums and galleries, almost no mention has been made of the abortive attempt to impose charges in the early 1970s.

Entry to the National Gallery was set modestly at £1, yet attendance dropped by almost three-quarters. The revenue raised actually failed to cover the cost of collecting the charge. Even the Treasury realised that a serious blunder had been made, and the entry fee was hastily withdrawn.

One factor that became clear at that time was that overseas visitors were not disturbed by paying, but that in this country there is a well-known distrust of the visual arts which promotes the feeling that museums, as distinct from galleries, provide an "educational" dimension that makes them morally worthier of support. Galleries were the tragic victims of this double-edged onslaught.

Dr ALLAN BRAHAM
London NW6
The writer was Keeper of the National Gallery, 1978-88.

Sir: For the Policy Studies Institute to describe museum charges as inevitable (report, 1 December) is seriously misleading.

When the Heritage Lottery Fund was established it was made clear to all potential beneficiaries that it could not be used for running costs and would not become a substitute for the core funding which was the responsibility of government and other agencies. That policy is now under review, but in the meantime it is hardly fair to blame museums for accepting what they were offered: funds for overdue capital improvements.

The Government must not be allowed to hide behind statements by the PSI. Charges will only be inevitable if its own level of support for our beleaguered cultural institutions leaves no alternative.

DUNCAN ROBINSON
Director
The Fitzwilliam Museum
Cambridge

Sir: A visit to the British Museum may be free to Londoners, but a family from the North or Wales must, in any case, invest quite heavily for a visit. These people who are able to "pop in for a quarter of an hour" on many occasions (Andrew Marr, 26 November) are a lucky minority of Londoners.

We should aim to have the greatest possible access for the greatest number of people, to well run and solvent museums and art galleries. Good value for money is a better criterion than a parrot demand for free access, because it was so since 1759.

EDITH SAUNDBY
Crickhowell, Powys

No win, no fee

Sir: Robert Willer (Letters, 28 November) argues that the Government's proposals for the reform of legal aid and extension of conditional fee agreements will benefit only large law firms. He suggests that small firms "may be crippled" if they lose even a few cases brought with conditional fees. I believe he is wrong on both counts.

On his first point, it is true that the Government's proposals, particularly block contracting, will encourage specialisation by lawyers. I see nothing wrong with that. Through block contracting, legal aid expenditure will be concentrated on services provided by competent, experienced advisers. Taxpayers' money should be spent on buying high-quality services from lawyers who have a thorough understanding of the law at issue. Privately funded clients would expect nothing less. There is no reason why a small firm should not benefit from greater specialisation, just as a large one can.

In the post-reform world, I believe there will still be a place for small firms in small towns to offer a valuable, general service. But the availability of legal aid funding will depend in large part on the plans which are made by local people in the Regional Legal Services Committees.

On Mr Willer's second point, both large and small firms will need to develop a more sophisticated understanding of assessing and managing risk; and it may well be true that some firms will not adapt and will not survive. As the Lord Chancellor said in Cardiff, conditional fees are about taking the rough with the smooth. There is no reason why a well-managed, competent small firm should not find itself better off, not worse off, by using conditional fees.

GEOFFREY HOON MP
Parliamentary Secretary
Lord Chancellor's Department
London SE1

Too many people

Sir: At the Kyoto conference on climate change world leaders may agree to make a cut in greenhouse gases. Efforts will presumably be concentrated on improving technology to make more efficient use of energy.

Whatever can be done in this direction should be done, but there are enormous difficulties. For example, Japan claims that 20 more nuclear power stations would be needed for it to make another 5 per cent cut in carbon dioxide emissions.

We hear of many proposals to tackle the technological aspect of the problem and a few to moderate affluent lifestyles. However, especially in the richer and therefore most polluting countries, we hear of none addressing the question of the amount of people, whose numbers multiplied by their per capita consumption lead to the total impact of technology on the environment.

Measures towards gradual, voluntary reduction in national populations should be an important strand in any strategy to combat climate change. The trend towards smaller populations already exists in a few European countries and should be welcomed and planned for.

SUE BIRLEY
Co-ordinator, The Campaign for Political Ecology
Wanborough, Wiltshire

Sir: Sam Boote's letter (1 December), suggesting that global warming is due to changes in the sun, not carbon dioxide emissions, misses the point.

We are not in an area of black-and-white science here, but in the much more tricky one of risk analysis. Given the enormity of the potential threat to world economic and social stability, plus the practical and political obstacles to progress in reducing CO_2 emissions, the current aim must be to reduce the risk to manageable proportions.

We have a long way to go to achieve this. Failing to make a positive start at Kyoto would represent an immense gamble.

TONY ROBSON
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Framed by MI5

Sir: The available evidence shows conclusively that Alice Wheeldon (not "Wheedon") never plotted to murder anyone and that she was framed by an MI5 offshoot called PMS2 ("Lloyd George freed his would-be assassin", 28 November).

The "testament of MI5 agent Alex Gordon" was certainly not "damning evidence" of Wheeldon's guilt. "Alex Gordon" (real name: William Rickard) was a mentally unstable journalist with a criminal record who was employed by PMS2 as an *agent provocateur*. His deranged imagination produced the allegation that Wheeldon and her family planned to shoot Lloyd George with a poisoned air-gun pellet while he was playing golf.

Although Rickard's evidence was central to the Wheeldon trial he never appeared in court to face cross-examination. PMS2 later packed him off to South Africa to get him out of the way and he eventually committed himself to a mental asylum.

DAVID TURNER
Borden, Kent

Safety in risk

Sir: Fears for the future safety of children expressed by Jackie Lang, president of the Girls' Schools Association ("Let children take more risks, says school head", 27 November), are shared by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

We are only too aware that Mrs Lang's assertion that "we may be rearing a generation incapable of assessing risks for themselves" is coming true. Children perpetually shielded from dangers in life will not be able to make the correct judgements when they are eventually allowed out on their own or, indeed, when they reach adulthood.

That is why we encourage parents to abandon their cars whenever possible and to walk their children to school at every opportunity. In that way, they can teach them road safety lessons along the way and point out possible hazards on their route. Many local authorities provide child pedestrian skills training and parents should encourage their children to take part in such exercises.

DAVID ROGERS
Road Safety Adviser
Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
Birmingham

Jesus explained

Sir: Ann Curry asks (letter, 21 November) how and why Galilean fishermen would shave. Razors had been available for centuries, and Jesus lived in a world in which Greek was the lingua franca, a world ruled mainly by the descendants of Alexander's Successors, who still followed his practices of maintaining a shaven chin and dining with 12 intimate Companions (an allusion to the 12 Olympians at table with Zeus).

It is highly improbable that Jesus would have been unaware of these customs. Thus by easily recognised signs did he imply his Kingship. Possibly.

STEPHEN GRIME
London SE11

Sir: "In my Father's house are many mansions." Following your report (28 November) of Fr Magnani's theory that Jesus was more than a mere carpenter, are we to assume that he was in fact a property developer specialising in conversions?

LESLEY RIDDLE
London SW6

And now, news of another way to shrink all those little bits of news

MILES KINGTON

For those who feel that they haven't got the time to read the daily papers and the Sunday papers and watch the television news and listen to the radio news, etc, a new weekly publication has emerged called *The Week*, which reprints the best and most informative articles about the week's news.

I think it's pretty good value.

For those who haven't got the time to cover all the glossy magazines, and the weekly magazines, and the men's and women's magazines, and the other magazines, and who would like to keep up with the best of it, another new publication called *The Cover* has emerged which promises to bring us the best of magazine journalism.

I think it looks pretty good value.

Of course, there are also the more traditional publications which for a long time now have brought us the best of news and writing. I'm thinking of the *Reader's Digest*, of course, but also of such Fleet-Street based digests as *The Weekly Guardian* and the similar sheets put out by *The Express*, *Telegraph*, etc.

They all look pretty good value to me.

The trouble is, not many of us have got the time and the energy to get through all these digests, these compilations, these abridgements, these proliferating quick 'n' easy guides to this hard 'n' horrid world.

Let's face it, after a hard day trying to get to the office and back, and a hard day on the mobile phone talking to those people you would have met had you managed to get to the office on time, you really don't feel like making the effort to wade through well intentioned attempts to save you the effort of wading through the world's news, do you?

I mean, who has really got the chance any more to relax and read something designed for people who haven't got the chance to relax and read any more?

Nobody, that's who.

But help is at hand!

Help in the shape of a brand-new publication which brings you the best material from the various weekly digests.

Yes, at last there is a new publication which actually trawls through the selected material in all the digests, and then selects the best of that just for busy people like you!

It's going to be called *Premium Weekly*.

It's going to be published by this column, and it's going to be indispensable.

In the first issue, for instance, we have an exclusive report on the new musical being written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. It's about the rise to power of a charismatic woman who is loved by everyone even though she is ruthless and has blood on her hands. No, not "Evita". It's "Winnie".

There is a crucial report from South Africa entitled "Is there something in the air of South Africa which drives men and women mad and leads them to do things which in a colder damper climate they would not do? To put it another way, would Winnie Mandela and Earl Spencer make the ideal couple?"

We reveal that the smog and haze obscuring most of the Far East are actually caused by their finance markets going up in smoke.

We examine the strong rumours that the Millennium Dome is being designed as a secret way of communicating with other civilisations, and we ask the question: "Where is Peter Mandelson really from?".

In the first issue there is also a first-hand report on the crucial Iran-Australia World Cup qualifying match from Salman Rushdie, entitled "Why Terry Venables dared not win".

There is an amazing report on how Rupert Murdoch, the man who took on American nationality in order to be able to own American TV stations, is planning to expand his Asian drive by becoming a Chinese citizen, so we say: "Goodbye, Rupert – Hello, Comrade Lupe!"

Other features in *Premium Weekly*, all taken from the world press and skilfully disguised to conceal their source, include:

"E-Mail, F-Words, G Spots – is the alphabet taking over?"

"Have the Irish lost the will to lose the Eurovision song contest?"

"If we harnessed waste emissions from America, could they keep the world warm?" and

"If the French for 'El Nino' is 'Le Garçon', do the French think that the world's climate problems are being caused by a maverick waiter?"

Only in the *Premium Weekly*! Subscribe now to get the best of the world's news! Save time by switching to *Premium Weekly*!

Special Offer: If you don't think you'll have time to read 'Premium Weekly' every week, ask about our sister publication, 'Premium Monthly', or, for very busy businessmen, our annual album, 'Premium Weekly Pick of the Year'.

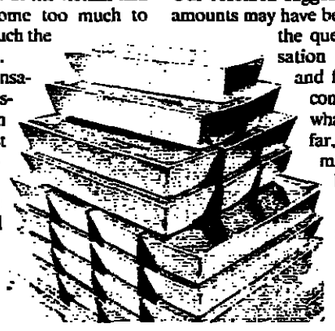
هكذا من الأصل

How we can keep the memory of evil alive

ROBIN COOK

NAZI GOLD CONFERENCE

Last Wednesday I visited Budapest. At the turn of the century a fifth of the population there were Jewish. On Thursday I went to Prague, where the Nazis brought Jewish artefacts to build a Museum of Extinct People. On Friday I visited the Jewish memorial in Poland, where three million Jews died. The numbers are just too big to imagine, but the tales of just a few of the victims and survivors soon become too much to bear. Europe is so much the poorer for their loss.



For them, compensation will never be possible. But we can remember. We must document the evidence, gather the facts, locate the truth. We must tell the stories of the victims, to deny the Nazis success in their mission to eradicate their humanity. We must tell the stories to our children, not as dry history or academic debate, but in a way that will teach them the dangers of prejudice and hatred. Keeping the memory of this evil alive is our best defence against it happening again.

One of my first acts as Foreign Secretary was to call for a conference about Nazi gold. I was convinced that by bringing together everyone connected with the subject – the experts, the governments, the victims – we could pool our knowledge and talk through the difficult questions. Doing so might answer some unanswered questions, and erase some of the bitterness.

The London Conference on Nazi Gold opens today in Lancaster House. It brings together experts and officials from over 40 countries, six organisations representing the survivors, and four institutions that actually handled the Nazi gold – more expertise than has ever been gathered on this subject before. The conference is not an inter-governmental conference designed to take decisions, or to pass judgement and apportion blame. It will instead allow everyone involved the chance to talk through the issues – whom the gold came from, what the Nazis did with it, what happened to it after the war.

There is still a lot of suspicion from survivors and the families of victims. Many believe that there has been a cover-up, and that governments are hiding the facts. I hope this conference will go some way towards assuaging these suspicions. The Foreign Office has published two detailed historical papers on the subject, with all the source material available at the Public Records Office. Other countries have also set up commissions to investigate this issue.

After the War the Allies gathered all the hoarded Nazi gold they could find. The gold in monetary form they put into the Tripartite Gold Commission's fund, and they have distributed almost all of it to the former occupied countries from which it was looted. The gold that was not in monetary form was used to help meet the urgent needs of the refugees.

Two especially sensitive questions need addressing. The first is whether gold that had been stolen from individuals became mixed up with the monetary gold. Our research suggests that very small amounts may have been. The second is the question of compensation – for individuals and for countries. The conference will look at what has been done so far, and what further might be done. I hope it will acknowledge the good as well as the bad – the good faith of the Allies in meeting the pressing needs of the time, of the Swiss who have set up a special fund for the individual victims of the Nazis, and of the Germans who have paid out over DM100bn in compensation.

The Tripartite Commission still holds £40m worth of gold. The three countries of the Commission – ourselves, the US and France – still have an obligation to return this to the former occupied countries. But there is a pressing need for assistance to be given to the remaining survivors. Otherwise we risk a second tragedy – letting the victims of the Nazis live out their lives in penury. This is why we have proposed a voluntary fund, to which the recipient countries can give some or all of their final payment from the commission. The response we have got from the recipient countries has been positive, and I will be launching the fund today.

This is not going to erase the sadness and the loss. It can be no compensation for those the Nazis killed, or those survivors who have died already. It must not weaken the memory of what happened. But I hope it will help those victims of the Nazis who are still alive, and show that we are serious in remembering those who are not.

What makes Harriet Harman tick?

DONALD MACINTYRE

LONE PARENTS' BENEFIT CUT

BRIAN HARRIS

Harriet Harman was always going to have her difficulties with the Labour Party once in government. First, there are plenty of MPs who haven't forgotten her decision to defy party taboos by sending one of her sons to a grammar school; second, the job of Social Security Secretary in a Labour government is inherently difficult – even when you're not, as she is, a member of a government committed to radical welfare reform. Just as Tory Home Secretaries can never fully satisfy their constituency unless they are prepared to forsake reason, so the party always wants more from its DSS ministers than they can give. And Ms Harman's personality isn't one everyone finds congenial. It's not just the middle-class Metropolitan manner of a St Paul's ex-head girl. It's also a certain imperviousness in the face of opposition, amply demonstrated in last year's grammar school fracas. This is a strength; but it can also be a trifle exasperating. Finally – and this has nothing do with her own character – even the most progressive of us are a little schizophrenic about our women politicians. In our heads we want them to be just like men; in our hearts, male or female, we expect them to be just a little more caring and just a little less macho than men.

For all these reasons it's tempting to personalise, at Ms Harman's expense, the row over the cut in lone parents' benefit. It is a temptation which several of her critics, in the press as well as in the ranks of Labour MPs, have found impossible to resist. But it is based on a serious misapprehension. The policy she defended in the Commons yesterday is very far from being hers alone. The cut is directly in line with the decision of Gordon Brown to stick rigidly to the spending limits set by his predecessor. Some leading critics – such as Ken Livingstone and Chris Mullin – have not shrunk from acknowledging this; others have. It is much more fashionable – and perhaps a little less risky – to criticise Ms Harman than it is to criticise the Chancellor and the Prime Minister. But the decision to stick to Ken Clarke's spending limits for two years was announced before the election; it formed part of Labour's programme, and it was probably part of the unprecedented economic credibility that helped to deliver Labour its landslide on May 1. It's true that the Chancellor has juggled some figures to inject more cash into health and education. But that was to meet cherished and, during the election, stated priorities. By contrast the lone parents' cut played directly to both Brown's and Tony Blair's desire – wholeheartedly shared, it should be admitted, by Ms Harman – to see the poor, including poor lone mothers, lift their prospects by taking jobs rather than stay at home. Part of her case has been that by taking jobs, including part-time jobs, lone parents would, thanks to the in-work benefit of Family Credit, be better off – by an average of £50 per week – than if they weren't in jobs. In that sense it was an important and highly symbolic part of the welfare to work programme. (So to are the two concessions Ms Harman and Mr Brown have made – bringing the programme to get lone parents into work forward to next April and providing £300m of lottery money for child care.) Finally it was also, perhaps, in line with Tony Blair's social and moral agenda – through trying to discourage young women from regarding single motherhood on benefit as a realistic means of livelihood. There were – and are – valid arguments to be levelled at the policy; not least the question of whether the cuts should have applied to new lone parents of children under five.

And while the cuts apply only to new lone parents, what of single mothers who take short-term jobs and then are forced back on to income support? As new claimants they would now be subject to cuts of up to £11 per week. Ministers are adamant that even lone parents taking short-time jobs will still be better off over the year; nevertheless some of these arguments were well worth having out.

But a serious problem is that the parliamentary left didn't focus on them until it was too late. When on 22 July the Liberal Democrats sought to amend the Bill reducing child benefit for lone parents, the present dissidents (Ken Livingstone, Diane Abbott, Audrey Wise, Chris Mullin, among them) voted with the Government against the amendment, despite a long and eloquent speech by the Liberal Democrats' social security spokesman Steve Webb criticising the cut. This has added to the suspicion that at least some of the putative rebels decided to focus on the issue much later, possibly because student fees had failed to live up to expectations as the lightning conductor for discontent.

In other words this may have been as much about testing left-wing strength as it was about concern for lone mothers. Which means that any putative rebel can only protest by voting down – or abstaining – on the whole Social Security Bill, a large part of which is an entirely welcome simplification of the benefit claims system. Some in the Government didn't handle the issues as well as they might have done. In particular it is distinctly odd that at least some government whips appeared to have given tacit encouragement to Mr Mullin's confidential round robin to Mr Brown. Whoever encouraged them to do this, it was not Ms Harman. Maybe it was just a way to minimise the level of public protest and persuade dissidents not to sign an open motion attacking the cuts. But it must have led some of the signatories to feel that they were on a winner.

Which they are not, and to be realistic, never could have been. This has now become an issue of the Government's credibility. If at the first signs of revolt – and those actually abstaining in the crucial division may be as few as a fifth of those who signed Mr Mullin's letter – ministers buckled, it would have gravely weakened Brown's claim to fiscal prudence. Every promise of responsible economic management would come under scrutiny, not least in the markets. This isn't perhaps, the issue most ministers would have chosen. Suddenly the Government's New Deal for lone mothers has become frighteningly real: a great deal hangs on it. If it is shown to work then it will be much easier to defend the cuts. If it doesn't – and the evaluation promised by Ms Harman will have to be serious – then ministers will have to rethink, perhaps as early as next year. But for the time being Mr Brown and Ms Harman have made all the concessions they are going to. And they have no choice.

Ms Harman, by nature a tough political survivor, may be taking the flak for now; but there is a lot more at stake here than the short-term popularity of a single minister.

A few questions for Geoffrey Robinson, Treasury minister

ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

ON TAX AVOIDANCE

So it is all nice and tidy is it? Mr Geoffrey Robinson, MP, Treasury minister, is not a tax avoider. Having been revealed by the *Independent on Sunday* as the beneficiary of a multi-million-pound offshore trust, Mr Robinson and two cabinet ministers stated authoritatively that all was in order. The arrangement with the Guernsey based trust did not involve any tax avoidance. Mr Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary, said that Mr Robinson had done what ministers with shares had done in the past and "put them into a blind trust".

It is easy to be dazzled and confused by such manoeuvres. Let us examine them for what they are. The question is why rich people such as Mr Robinson have trusts and put their assets into them. After all, to do so reduces, at least marginally, your freedom of action. Is not Earl Spencer claiming in the divorce court that his family's wealth is all locked up in trusts and therefore cannot be touched? And in terms of lawyers' fees and trustees' remuneration, trusts are costly to set up and maintain. One reason is to disguise the ownership of assets. Another is to minimise or avoid the inheritance tax which would otherwise be payable by the beneficiaries of your will; nowadays trusts are much less useful than formerly in avoiding income tax and capital gains tax. Here, then, is a straight question: will Mr Robinson's heirs enjoy tax advantages from his family trust in due course?

We may also ask ourselves why trusts are created offshore, in places like the Channel Islands or the Cayman Islands. The explanation is that putting a bit of distance between your assets and the Inland Revenue has its advantages. It may be, for instance, that the buying and selling of shares within the trust can be conducted without paying tax as you go along. In the United Kingdom, if I own ICI shares and sell them in order to buy BP, I shall have to pay tax on any gain in ICI even though I re-invest the proceeds in BP. Off-shore trusts can avoid that necessity. Tax becomes payable only when the beneficiary in this country receives a dividend or capital payment.

Furthermore, it is sometimes the case that tax payable becomes due rather more slowly when shares are held in offshore trusts than when they are held directly by a UK resident. Delay has a monetary value. A second question, therefore: are there tax advantages for the operation of Mr Robinson's trust as compared with owning the same assets directly?

If we cluck-cluck about Mr Robinson's offshore trust and wonder about the advantages it may confer, Mr Darling informs newspapers that the money was put into the trust by a Belgium woman living in Switzerland, so it was not a way of avoiding tax in Britain. Assets weren't taken out of the United Kingdom. Forgive me, but I think that you should always inquire into schemes which involve Belgium women living in Switzerland putting money into trusts based in the Channel Islands for beneficiaries living in Britain. Why not just send a cheque to Mr Robinson's home address or transfer the assets into his name? I can think of a possible reason why not. Because UK tax would become immediately payable on the benefit.

'Forgive me, but I think you should always inquire into schemes which involve Belgium women living in Switzerland putting money into trusts based in the Channel Islands for beneficiaries living in Britain. Why not just send a cheque to Mr Robinson's home address or transfer the assets into his name?'

Equally curious is the ambiguity in Mr Robinson's statement over the weekend. On the one hand, he stated that he had never transferred capital or other assets into the trust – Mr Darling's point. That is on line 21 of his statement. He was just the fortunate beneficiary of Madame Joska Bourgeois' munificence. But then, on line 27, he also admitted that the "right" to buy £9m of shares in the prosperous British company, TransTec, which he controls, had passed to the offshore trust. The minister states that capital gains tax is liable on the transaction.

When we look at the details of this particular transaction, we find a further oddity. Between Mr Robinson and the offshore trust was interposed another company owned by Mr Robinson, Stenbell. He sold his rights to Stenbell; in turn Stenbell sold them on to the offshore trust. Again there are two reasons why this complication might be thought advantageous: to disguise the ownership of assets; or to harvest a tax advantage. Was this the case?

Finally, there is the matter of the blind trust. Blind trusts are devices which place the management of your assets into the hands of trustees who do not, indeed may not, tell you what they are doing. The technique is designed to prevent conflicts of interest. Ministers say blind trust, end of argument. Actually blind trusts are not all they are cooked up to be. Ministers know that they will regain control of their assets when they leave office. We are never informed who the trustees are. For all we know they may be friends, associates, employees of the companies in which the minister has an interest, chosen because they know what to do without being told.

But whatever the merits of a blind trust, in this particular case Mr Robinson's evident conflict of interest has not been removed. The offshore trust established for the minister's family, of which he is a discretionary beneficiary, has not been included in the blind trust arrangements. This is a serious problem. Treasury ministers set the tax rules for residents of the UK who are beneficiaries of trusts, whether established overseas or not. Mr Robinson, as a Treasury minister, has a conflict of interest by virtue of being the beneficiary of a trust.

Nor can it be argued that Mr Robinson, as Paymaster General, has nothing to do with personal taxation. As it happens, this morning, Mr Robinson will present the Government's proposals for creating individual savings accounts that provide limited tax advantages for ordinary people, perhaps less generous than the Tory schemes they are designed to replace. The final question, thus, is for the Chancellor of the Exchequer: given Mr Robinson's conflict of interest, should he remove Mr Robinson from playing any role in the Treasury's management of the nation's tax system?

Baltic Pine
Conservatories

ORDER NOW
READY TO ENJOY
THE SPRING

ORDER BEFORE WE GET BUSY IN MARCH AND WE'LL KNOCK 12½% OFF

- Europe's biggest manufacturer of traditional Baltic Pine Conservatories using high spec timber from managed Swedish forests.
- Massive choice of Victorian, Edwardian & Georgian styles.
- Free design service for non - standard shapes.

FULL 10 YR GUARANTEE
FREE DELIVERY UK MAINLAND

Baltic Pine
CLASSIC GLASSHOUSES

AT OUR PRICES, WHY CHOOSE SECOND BEST ?

FREEPHONE NOW FOR OUR FREE BROCHURE OR RETURN THE COUPON BELOW
FREEPHONE 0800 585081
ASK US ABOUT SUMMER HOUSES & GREENHOUSES TOO!

SEND TO:
BALTIC PINE CLASSIC GLASSHOUSES, BALTIC HOUSE, LONGROCK, PENZANCE, CORNWALL, TR20 8HX
Please send your Free Brochure to...
Name: .....
Address: .....
.....
Telephone No: .....(Day) .....(Eve)

هكذا من الاصل

Stéphane Grappelli

Stéphane Grappelli, violinist: born Paris 26 January 1908; died Paris 1 December 1997.

All his long career, Stéphane Grappelli maintained an effortless balance between art and entertainment. He was one of the last of the classic musician-performers, for whom playing jazz was inseparable from playing for people.

Born in the Paris of the *belle époque*, Grappelli lost his mother before he was five. He was raised by his loving but impecunious father, who placed him in the experimental school run by Isadora Duncan, where an orchestral performance of Debussy's *Prélude à l'Après-midi d'un Faune* gave him his first deep musical impression. The coming of the First World War, however, shunted him into squalid orphanages and, sometimes, hand-to-mouth existence on the streets. Grappelli often described his childhood as "like a Dickens novel", and it made him a lifelong survivor. Ever after he would be, as he said, "a bit careful" with money – what others might call parsimonious – and he was always aware of the spectre of poverty. At the same time he never lost a grateful delight in the pleasures of life, an outlook reflected in his joyously spontaneous playing.

He began to play for his living after the war at the age of 12, busking in courtyards with a junior-size violin. He taught himself the fiddle, though, with characteristic diligence, he took a course in solfeggio and harmony at the Paris Conservatoire, and at 15 got a job in an orchestra accompanying silent films. Shortly afterwards came his overwhelming exposure to the new American music, on a primitive juke-box. He knew instantly this was what he wanted to play. "I felt I was born with jazz" – and he sought out fellow enthusiasts and records by his first heroes, Armstrong and Beiderbecke.

Finding work as a jazz violinist hard to come by, Grappelli made himself a second career as a pianist. He played both instruments with Gregor and his Gregorians in the late Twenties and Thirties, and even doubled for a while on alto saxophone. His first meeting with Django Reinhardt came in 1931, but it wasn't until 1934, during intervals at the Hôtel Claridge's *thé dansant*, that the legendary Quintet of the Hot Club of France was born.

Records like "My Sweet" and "Minor Swing" established them as the first European group worthy of comparison with the Americans. Grappelli's wiry lyricism perfectly complemented Reinhardt's dominant, angular attack, though, on a personal level, the guitarist's wilful gypsy ways often exasperated his scrupulous partner.

Grappelli's long, happy association with Britain (which he called his "second country") began inadvertently and inauspiciously when he was stranded in London at the beginning of the Second World War. Landing on his feet as usual, he built up a considerable public following through his work with Hatchett's Swingtette in the West End, broadcast and toured extensively with his own groups, and forged a stimulating musical partnership with the young George Shearing.

The success and security he had won in Britain made him reluctant to renew his chequered alliance with Reinhardt after the war's end. Apart from a few records and tours with the old line-up, they went their separate ways, Grappelli opting for a full if relatively uneventful life playing a variety of music for a variety of audiences. He carried on in the same fashion when he returned to France in 1954, respected by the younger generation of beboppers as a "monster musician" always interested in new developments, but taken for granted by the general public. In terms of recognition, his sturdy professionalism worked against him, denying the attention his ever-ripening jazz talent deserved.

This benign neglect persisted into the 1960s, increased by the onset of rock and free jazz, two developments alien to Grappelli's otherwise catholic taste. In 1967 he accepted a residence at the Paris Hilton and remained there until 1972, surrounded by diners and dancers, while concerts and recordings made it clear he was playing better than ever.

Part of his decision to leave the Hilton was due to his famous appearance on Michael Parkinson's television show with Yehudi Menuhin, in December 1971, which led to a sequence of celebrated duets. But part of it was simple boredom, his realisation that, as he said, "it is stupid to stay in one place for so long".

Going back on the road, he was soon active in many more places than he'd been before. In 1973 the guitarist Diz Disley reunited Grappelli with the guitar and bass accompaniment of the Hot Club days and introduced him to a vast and enthusiastic audience of young people, who were captivated by his natural, fatherly effervescence, after the psychodramatics of rock. Grappelli's huge success with the Disley trio at the 1973 Cambridge Folk Festival inaugurated his rise to international fame; which expanded throughout the Seventies, and continued until his death.

A style 'the most like speech of almost any musician working today': Grappelli in 1940 Photograph: Hulton Getty

The Grappelli style was unmistakeable. His sometime protégé Nigel Kennedy called it "the most like speech of almost any musician working today". On a ballad like "The Folks Who Live on the Hill", he was tenderly eloquent, on medium-tempos such as "Sweet Georgia Brown" unfailingly swinging, while up-tempos like "Them There Eyes" shone with agile and exhilarating energy.

On any tune he treated the melody with imagination and respect. Like many musicians of his generation he believed that a melody line had its own value, as much as an improvisation, and by colour and nuance he could turn a familiar theme into a personal statement. The purity of his music and sincerity of his manner gave Stéphane Grappelli's concerts a classic quality. They were wholly free from hype and gimmicks – except perhaps for his flowered shirts. At one Grappelli concert I overheard a father-son exchange, the son observing that, though he liked the music, a rock show would use lights and such for extra stimulation. "Oh crazy, man," said his father sardonically, "you mean you have to listen." That seemed to sum up Grappelli's timeless appeal, which made simply listening a pleasure.

Happily that quality comes through on his many recordings, though it's fair to say he recorded too much and sometimes too casually, putting his formidable technique on automatic pilot. As a committed public performer, he felt deprived of audience contact in the studio. But there are plenty of sparkling moments in his scores of record with an astonishing array of partners, from Duke Ellington to Menuhin, Earl Hines to Gary Burton. And there are the great performances with Django Reinhardt. They were ideal foils for each other, and you can already hear in Grappelli's playing the gifts that became richer and more assured throughout his life – the fluency and invention, warmth and grace that made him one of the best-loved communicators in jazz.

– Geoffrey Smith

The partnership between Grappelli and Reinhardt was often precarious and yet it was both fundamental and important to the violinist's career, *writes Steve Voce*. He acknowledged this when, in the decades after the death of the guitarist, Grappelli would have an empty chair placed on stage "for Django".

The two were the first to prove that Europeans could match and often better the American musicians at playing jazz. But the pairing was grotesque. Grappelli was educated and played with a classically trained sophistication. Reinhardt lived in a caravan. "Django was a gypsy who had burnt his hand in a caravan fire and only had three fingers," the tenorist Flip Phillips recalled. "All he could steal was bowling balls." Because of his reformed hand Reinhardt had developed an unorthodox guitar technique which to some extent matched his character.

Grappelli was reliable and businesslike. Reinhardt had no care for time-keeping and was generally erratic in his behaviour. "Django was always late and often he forgot to appear at night because his only clock was the sun," said Grappelli. Reinhardt was also illiterate, though he taught himself to read later. The guitarist, who trusted his senior partner implicitly, was sensitive about his inability to read and would pretend to check contracts after Grappelli had approved them. On one occasion he pretended to read a contract the two were being offered by a promoter for a booking in London. To make his charade convincing he pointed to a line in the contract and said that it was unacceptable. Furious, Grappelli took the paper from him and read the line. It was to guarantee the two first-class return airfares to England.

The violinist disliked flying and because of this postponed his first visit to the United States until 1969 (Reinhardt's death in 1953 had forestalled a planned trip to New York by the duo). He first played at Carnegie Hall in 1974 and returned there to celebrate his 80th birthday in 1988 with a concert which teamed him with the cellist Yo Yo Ma, the Juilliard String Quartet and a distinguished assembly of American jazz musicians.

Grappelli's instrument is barely compatible with most jazz combinations, but this iconoclast of the violin played with and sometimes recorded with such diverse jazz characters as Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, Gary Burton, Oscar Peterson, Earl Hines and Phil Woods, to say nothing of his albums with Yehudi Menuhin and Yo Yo Ma. His playing continued to improve as he gave concerts in the Nineties and his recording career, which stretched over seven decades, is probably the most formidable in the whole of jazz.

Grappelli, left, at a concert in 1988 for his 80th birthday at the Barbican Centre, London, with Yehudi Menuhin Photograph: Camera Press

Coleman Young

Coleman Alexander Young, civil rights campaigner and politician: born Tuscaloosa, Alabama 24 May 1918; Mayor of Detroit 1973-93; died Detroit 29 November 1997.

In the rich and colourful firmament of big city United States mayors, Coleman Young occupies a niche of his own. Charismatic, crusading and autocratic, for better and worse he dominated the politics of Detroit during 20 terrible years for his country's flagship industrial city. But his life was a cameo of the struggle this century of black America for emancipation and self-respect.

He was born in Alabama but when he was only five his family joined in the great secular black migration northward, leaving the terrors of the Ku Klux Klan for the hope and opportunity offered by the motor industry's heroic age. But racial discrimination shaped him almost from the outset; first as a brilliant student denied the chance of university, then as a worker on the Ford assembly lines taunted by white supervisors, finally as an airman in the Second World War, arrested for demanding to be served in a segregated officers' club. And, until the end of his days, the slighted young radical would be a fighter for black rights, especially at the workplace.

In 1949 he founded the National Negro Labor Council, whose achievements included forcing a measure of integration upon Sears, Roebuck, then the largest US retailers. For his pains, he found himself before the House Un-American Activities Committee, and chose to disband the Council rather than surrender a list of members to the government. "In those days," he recalled later, "If you were trying to do anything for blacks, you were considered a Communist."

Predictably, hard times followed. Young was blacklisted, and was obliged to take a string of menial jobs. But by 1964 his reputation as a labour and civil rights campaigner helped win him a seat in the Michigan state senate. His political ascent had begun, and in November 1973 he was elected Mayor of Detroit, among the first blacks to run a major US city.

Young: Lord of Detroit

It was the toughest political assignment in America. The Detroit of legend, of booming motor industry, boundless jobs and the glitz of Tamla Motown, had been buried under an avalanche of race riots, energy crisis, recession and virtual municipal bankruptcy. America's workshop had become a global case study of inner city collapse. Affluent whites fled to the suburbs. Vast swathes of Detroit became an industrial Pompeii. Only in its murder rate did it any longer lead the country.

Probably not even a saint could have rescued Motown at that nadir of its history, and Young fell several notches short of beatitude. But his start was promising enough. Having won election on a platform of cleaning up racism in the police force, widely blamed during the 1967 riots which took 43 lives, he moved swiftly to appoint more blacks. With Henry Ford and Leonard Woodcock, head of the Union of Autoworkers, he formed a coalition to rescue Detroit, and issued his famous call to arms against crime: "I warn all dope pushers, all rip-off artists, all muggers . . . It's time to leave Detroit . . . And I don't give a damn if they're black or white, or if they wear Superfly suits or blue uniforms with silver badges. Hit the road. As of this minute we're going to turn this city round."

But the road to urban ruin is paved with good intentions. The recession deepened, the federal government refused to help and Detroit was trapped in the vicious self-perpetuating cycle of rising unemployment, dwindling tax revenues, reduced services, and further middle-class flight that has plagued cities across America, most famously of late Washington DC. And as Detroit declined, Young's belligerence grew. Gradually he gave up on business, and the whites entrenched in the suburbs beyond Eight Mile Road. All his life Young loved sports, and to the fugitives he quoted from Detroit's most famous sporting son: "Like Joe Louis said, you can run, baby, but you can't hide."

Four times he was re-elected, in 1977, 1981, 1985, and 1989, and each success tightened his grip on Detroit's political machine. When he wanted Young could be charming and conciliatory. But with the years he grew more confrontational. He was the Lord of Detroit, and he made sure visitors knew it. His style became lazier, his language more profane. By the end he would sometimes receive guests like an African potentate, clad in a silk dressing-gown, smoking a cigar. His own summary of his career was lapidary: "Just let's say I've had some peaks and valleys, baby."

Briefly Young contemplated a sixth term. But illness dictated his retirement in 1993, and would plague him for the rest of his life. As his own health faded however, that of the city he had ruled began to improve. His successor Dennis Archer, a moderate black Democrat on close terms with President Clinton, is painstakingly reknitting the city with its severed suburbs. The baseball Tigers and the football Lions are moving to new downtown sports stadia, and, gingerly, restaurants, shops and corporations, led by GM itself, are returning to the city's heart. The trend reflects a resurgent and more diversified local economy, a feeling of guilt about what has been allowed to happen – but also of relief that the flamboyant, combative but ultimately corrosive Coleman Young is no longer in City Hall.

– Rupert Cornwell

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Imogen Stewart, "Liberty Dress and Textiles", 2.30pm.

British Museum: Sam Moorhead, "Rome's Northern Frontier", 1.15pm.

London School of Economics, London WC2: Professor Peter Hennessy, "The Blair Style of Government: an historical perspective and an interim audit", 5.30pm.

RIBA Architecture Centre, London W1: Chris Royffe, "The Architecture of Landscape", 6.30pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen receives the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Senhor Fernando Cardoso, and Senhora Cardoso on a State Visit. **The Duchess of Kent** presents the BT Childline Awards for Services to Children, Lancaster Hotel, London SW1.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Birthdays

Sir Maurice Bathurst QC, international judge, 84; Sir Frederic Bennett, former MP, 79; Mr Timothy Boswell MP, 55; The Hon Nigel Calder, science writer, 66; Professor Sir Alan Cook, former Master, Selwyn College, Cambridge, 75; Sir Frank Cooper, former senior civil servant, 75; Sir David Davies, former chairman, Welsh Development Agency, 88; Mr Mike England, football manager, 55; Mr Andrew George MP, 39; Mr David Green, Director, Voluntary Service Overseas, 49; Mr Michael Green, chairman, Carlton Communications and ITN, 50; General Alexander Haig, former US Secretary of State, 73; Marshal of the RAF Sir Peter Harding, former Chief of the Defence Staff, 64; Miss Julie Harris, actress, 72; Miss Patricia Hewitt MP, 49; Sir George Labouchere, former ambassador to Spain, 92; Dr Brian Lang, chief executive and deputy chairman, British Library, 52; Mr Roy Moss, former vice-chairman, Allied Domecq, 68; Dame Winifred Prentice, former President, Royal College of Nursing, 87; Miss Monica Seles, tennis player, 24; Mr Alex Smith, MEP, 54.

Anniversaries

Births: Francis Xavier Quadrio, Jesuit scholar, 1695; Pedro II, Emperor of Brazil, 1825; Sir Francis Carruthers Gould, caricaturist and politician, 1844; Georges-Pierre Seurat, painter, 1859; Manuel Ponce, Mexican composer, 1882; Peter Carl Goldmark, inventor of the long-playing record, 1906; Maria Anna Cecilia Sofia Callas, operatic soprano, 1923. **Deaths:** Margaret of Angoulême, Queen of Henry II of Navarre, 1549; Donatien-Alphonse François, Marquis de Sade, writer and philosopher, 1814; John Brown, abolitionist, executed 1859; Edmond-Eugène Alexis Rostand, playwright, 1918; E.M. Delafield (Edmée Elizabeth Monica de la Pasture), novelist, 1943; Philip Arthur Larkin, poet, 1985. **On this day:** the new St Paul's Cathedral was opened, 1697; Napoleon was crowned Emperor in Paris by Pope Pius VII, 1804; Birkbeck College, London, was founded, 1823; King Camp Gillette patented the first safety razor, 1901; the first atomic pile started operating, Chicago, 1942; the Persian Gulf sheikhdoms combined to form the United Arab Emirates, 1971. **Today** is the Feast Day of St Bibiana or Viviana, St Chromatius of Aquilea, St Nonnus and St Silvanus of Constantinople.

Dinners

First Sea Lord

Admiral Sir Jock Slater, First Sea Lord, presided at a dinner held yesterday evening at Admiralty House, London SW1, in honour of Admiral Jay Johnson USN, Chief of Naval Operations.

Coningsby Club

The Committee of the Coningsby Club hosted their Christmas Dinner yesterday evening at the Naval and Military Club, London SW1. Mr Charles Moore, Editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, was the guest of honour and speaker. Mr Martin Calderbank, Chairman, presided.

LAW REPORT: 2 DECEMBER 1997

Defendant must be allowed to make representations

A Crown Court judge who had acquitted a defendant on appeal from the magistrates' court was entitled to consider an application by the prosecution for an extension of time in which to state a case for the opinion of the High Court without consulting the justices who had heard the appeal with him, but he should not determine such an application without allowing the acquitted defendant to make representations.

Director of Public Prosecutions v Coleman; Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Garland) 26 November 1997

The Divisional Court dismissed the prosecutor's appeal by way of case stated against the acquittal of Valerie Ann Coleman on appeal to Southwark Crown Court (Judge Mercer sitting with justices) from Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court of failing without reasonable excuse to provide a specimen of breath for analysis, contrary to section 7(6) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

John McGuinness (Crown Prosecution Service) for the appellant; Nigel Ley (J.E. Armah & Co) for the respondent.

Lord Justice Pill said that the questions originally posed for the opinion of the court were, to put it generally, whether the court had been right in law to find that the prosecution had failed to follow proper procedures under the Road Traffic Act 1988 and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. It was common ground that the original questions now had to be answered in a way adverse to the respondent.

Further questions had, however, arisen because the appellant's application to the Crown Court to state a case had been made out of time. The judge had determined the applications to state a case and to extend time to state a case without consulting the justices who had sat with him on the hearing of the respondent's appeal against the decision of the magistrate's court, and had granted leave to apply for a case stated out of time ex *parte*, without hearing representations from the respondent.

The procedure upon an application to the Crown Court to state a case was set out in rule 26 of the Crown Court Rules 1982. Under that rule the primary responsibility for preparing the case to be stated was plainly upon the judge. The use of the expression "Crown Court" as distinct from "judge" in paragraphs 11 and 14 of the rule (dealing respectively with the questions of recognisance and extension of time) did not require the participation of the justices in those decisions, but rather reflected the possibility that a judge other than the judge who had heard the original appeal might consider the relevant applications. A judge alone could, therefore, consider an application for an extension of time.

A defendant who had been acquitted on appeal to the Crown Court should be given the opportunity to make representations, if the prosecution sought to extend the scope of its right to request the Crown Court to state a case for the opinion of the High Court by applying to extend the time in which an application could be made. A situation where he did not have that opportunity would be intolerable.

The present case illustrated the danger involved. The application for an extension of time had not contained any explanation as to why no application had been made within the time limit. The procedure followed in the present case had been significantly flawed by the failure to hear representations from the respondent and accordingly there had been no valid extension of time.

The procedure which should be followed upon a prosecution application to extend time in which to apply to the Crown Court to state a case was:

(1) the defendant should be notified of the application; (2) the terms of the application should be disclosed to him and he should be told of his right to make representations; (3) the court should consider the representations of both parties and the defendant should have the opportunity to deal with all representations made by the prosecution; (4) the application could normally be considered on the basis of written representations.

– Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

هكذا من الاصل

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER
NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK
FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

DTI considers Budge company collapse as pit crisis worsens

The Department of Trade and Industry is considering publishing reports into the collapse of a former company run by the Budge family, including the role played by Richard Budge, who later bought most of England's deep mines. As *Chris Godsmark* and *Michael Harrison* report, the move could intensify pressure on Mr Budge, chief executive of RJB Mining, as the group moves towards mass redundancies and pit closures.

According to senior sources, the DTI is looking into the 1992 collapse of AF Budge, the family construction and mining company of which Mr Budge had previously been a director. It comes as ministers face increasing criticism that the Government has done too little to prevent a looming wave of pit closures, with the anticipated loss of around 5,000 jobs.

AF Budge went bust in 1992 with debts of £96m. A BBC *Panorama* investigation into the affair in 1995 alleged that Coopers and Lybrand, the administrative receivers, had considered some dealings by Mr Budge, while at AF Budge, were "in contravention of the Companies Act."

The receiver's conclusions landed on ministers' desks as the DTI was about to sell most of the coal industry to Mr Budge. A subsequent National Audit Office probe found no evidence that the DTI's privatisation unit had sought to influence the decision not to take action against Mr Budge.

Last year three other former directors of AF Budge, Tony Budge and Janet Budge, Mr Budge's elder brother and sister-in-law, along with Michael Yates, were disqualified from acting as company directors.

Separately yesterday, as RJB directors met in London to consider the coal crisis, it emerged that Mr Budge is to appear before MPs on the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee on Wednesday. He is expected to face questioning on which pits are most likely to close, including the fate of the threatened Selby "superpit" complex.

John Battle, the Energy Minister, has also been called before the committee and will insist that the DTI has taken action in recent weeks to create a level playing-field to safeguard the market for British coal.

An RJB spokesman declined to comment on the board meeting, which is thought to have agreed to press ahead with moves to cut production capacity to match falling demand. "All we can say is that we are keeping events and developments under review," said the spokesman.

Meanwhile, National Power warned yesterday that forcing the three big coal-fired generators to increase emergency stockpiles of coal at their power stations would be a short-term fix that would not solve the RJB crisis and would penalise its shareholders.

A spokesman said that because of the mild winter National Power's current coal stocks were above minimum security levels laid down in law but also those it normally maintained for commercial reasons.

He also pointed out that if the generators were obliged to increase coal stocks they would have to issue open tenders not only to RJB but other UK coal producers and importers. There would also be a problem of where to stockpile the coal, given the high levels of power station stocks. The three fossil fuel generators – National Power, PowerGen and Eastern – consume enough coal a year to cover 115 miles of the M25 to a depth of 15 feet.

All three generators are due to give evidence before the Commons trade and industry select committee tomorrow. None are understood to have been approached by the Government to discuss a bail-out of RJB. PowerGen, the only one still to agree new coal contracts with RJB, has no negotiations planned for this week.

Outlook, page 25

Future uncertain: (clockwise from above) A miner clocking off from the day shift at Rossington Colliery, North Yorkshire; John Battle, the Energy Minister, who will tell the Select Committee that the DTI has taken action to safeguard the market for British coal; and Richard Budge of RJB Main photograph: Tom Pilston

United News & Media to sell regional newspapers

United News & Media has put its regional newspaper interests up for sale with a price tag of more than £400m. The move follows months of speculation that Lord Hollick's media group would ditch its regional papers in order to focus on television and national newspapers. *Cathy Newman* reports.

Kleinwort Benson has been approaching interested parties on United's behalf about the sale of titles which include the *Yorkshire Post*. United Provincial Newspapers is the fourth-largest regional newspaper publisher in the UK, with 61 papers in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Surrey and Essex.

Five prominent regional newspaper groups are known to have been approached. These are believed to include Newsquest Media Group, which came to the stock market in October, Trinity International Holdings, the biggest regional press player, Independent Newspapers, Northcliffe Newspapers and Johnston Press. Newsquest, which was formed after Reed Regional Newspapers was sold to a management buyout two years ago, has in the past made public its interest in UPN. However, Jim Brown, chairman, was not available for comment last night.

Industry sources suggested last night that Newsquest could face monopoly problems if it bought UPN. Newsquest operates in areas such as Yorkshire and Lancashire. Some analysts said Trinity would be the favourite buyer, although it too has newspapers in Yorkshire.

In response to calls about the sale, United issued a statement after the market had closed confirming it had "received a number of approaches from third parties indicating their interest in acquiring these businesses". It added: "The board is considering a range of alternatives including the further development of its regional newspaper businesses."

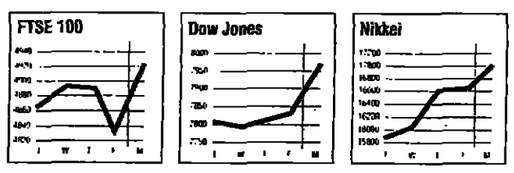
The disposal also includes UPN Espana, the company's Spanish regional paper division, and the free newspapers within United Advertising Publications (UAP). However UAP's flagship title, *Exchange & Mart*, will be retained by United.

The sale of UPN will be seen as one of the final stages of consolidation in the regional newspaper industry. Trinity kicked off a frenetic round of mergers and acquisitions by snapping up Thomson Regional Newspapers for £327.5m in November 1995. More corporate activity followed with Johnston buying Emap's regional titles, and Newsquest acquiring Westminster Press from Pearson. Most recently, Mirror Group added Midland Independent Newspapers to its newspaper interests, paying £297m in July this year.

United raised £31.5m by selling its Welsh regional papers to Southern Newspapers a year ago. However it reneged on its intention to dispose of its papers in South-east England after the potential buyers failed to meet United's asking price. At the time, City analysts speculated that the rest of the regional newspaper division would eventually go so that Lord Hollick could concentrate on his burgeoning TV businesses. United bought the HTV franchise earlier this year and owns the Anglia and Meridian ITV licences.

The company, which owns the *Express* newspaper, is also looking at ways of getting into pay-TV.

STOCK MARKETS

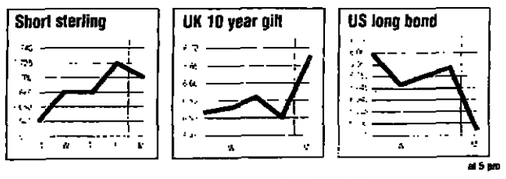


*Dow Jones index and graph at 5pm

Indices

Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	4921.80	90.00	1.86	5367.30	3882.70	3.59
FTSE 250	4657.60	0.90	0.02	4963.80	4321.80	3.47
FTSE 350	2373.80	35.00	1.50	2570.50	1935.70	3.57
FTSE All Share	2320.76	32.12	1.40	2507.68	1942.22	3.56
FTSE SmallCap	2273.1	1.00	0.04	2407.40	2127.50	3.41
FTSE Fledgling	1241.3	1.20	0.10	1346.50	1198.70	3.47
FTSE AIM	967.1	-0.40	-0.04	1138.00	965.90	1.07
Dow Jones	7957.66	134.53	1.72	8299.03	6236.05	1.71
Nikkei	17007.59	371.33	2.23	21067.68	14966.13	0.91
Hang Seng	10750.88	223.96	2.13	16820.31	8775.88	3.95
Dax	4068.05	118.91	3.01	4459.89	2760.76	1.96

INTEREST RATES



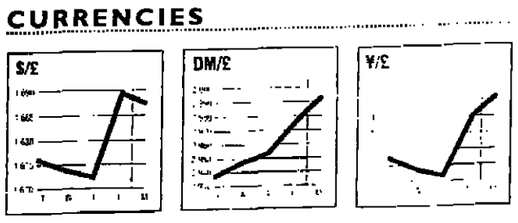
at 5 pm

Money Market Rates					Bond Yields			
Index	3 month	1 yr chg	1 year	1 yr chg	10 year	1 yr chg	Long bond	1 yr chg
UK	7.72	1.29	7.96	1.00	6.51	-0.64	6.40	-1.11
US	5.91	0.41	6.03	0.34	5.84	-0.21	6.03	-0.33
Japan	0.61	0.13	0.70	0.11	1.95	-0.52	2.60	-0.64
Germany	3.76	0.52	4.09	0.76	5.45	-0.20	6.03	-0.51

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chge	Falls	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chge
Smithkline Beech	598.00	48.00	9.00	Pilkington	124.00	-4.00	-3.13
Schroders	1770.00	64.00	5.80	M&G Grp	1395.00	-35.00	-2.45
Gen Accident	1025.00	62.00	5.66	Persimmon	209	-5	-2.34
Brit Land Co	680.00	35.00	5.50	Highland Distill	305.5	-7	-2.24

CURRENCIES



Pound	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago	Dollar	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6832	-0.60c	1.6816	Sterling	0.5941	+0.21p	0.5947
D-Mark	2.9935	+1.44pf	2.6155	D-Mark	1.7787	+1.42pf	1.5554
Yen	217.22	+Y1.63	192.64	Yen	129.06	+Y1.46	114.57
£ index	105.00	+0.90	94.00	$ index	107.30	+0.10	97.50

OTHER INDICATORS

* at 5 pm	Close	Chg	Yr Ago		Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next rep
Brent Oil ($)	18.12	-0.85	23.57	GDP	113.90	3.80	109.7	Jan
Gold ($)	293.75	-3.25	368.20	RPI	159.50	3.7	153.81	Nov
Silver ($)	5.24	-0.06	4.74	Base Rates		7.25	6.00	

www.bloomberg.com source: Bloomberg

Traders suspended in FTSE manipulation allegations

Two JP Morgan traders have been suspended after reportedly manipulating the FTSE 100. As *Lea Paterson* explains, Sets, the London Stock Exchange's new order-driven trading system, could be at least partly at fault.

Two equity options traders at JP Morgan, the investment bank, have been suspended following allegations that, together with traders from a rival investment bank, they manipulated the level of the FTSE 100 on Friday afternoon. The rival bank implicated in the scandal has not yet been identified. JP Morgan refused to name the employees involved, adding that it did not expect to make further staff suspensions.

The allegations against the two suspended traders are thought to centre on movements in pharmaceutical stocks late Friday afternoon. It is understood that, during the course of the day, the two JP Morgan traders asked a series of rival banks to assist in driving down the FTSE 100. After a number of rejections, the two traders found willing partners, and FTSE dropped 38 points in the last minutes of trade. The investigation is though to centre on movements of shares in pharmaceutical giants Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham. Their shares plunged towards the end of market trading on Friday.

It is understood that one of the banks approached by the JP Morgan employees tipped off the London Stock Exchange after the market closed on Friday. The Exchange promptly began an investigation.

The two JP Morgan traders are thought to have been attempting to hedge a derivatives position by driving down the level of the FTSE, a move which would be in breach of the Stock Exchange's regulations.

It is thought that the two JP Morgan traders persuaded rival traders to input "rogue" prices for the pharmaceutical stocks in the last few moments of market trade on Friday on to the Exchange's new electronic order book. The JP Morgan traders are then thought to have traded a "basket" of all FTSE 100 stocks, pushing both the price of the pharmaceutical shares and the level of the FTSE 100 down.

Manipulation of the Exchange's new electronic order-driven system, Sets, is particularly easy in the late afternoon. This is because traders remove their buy and sell orders from the book in the late afternoon, reducing liquidity.

Last week, the Stock Exchange released figures showing that the liquidity problems tend to be most marked in the first 45 minutes and the last 15 minutes of the trading day.

Aside from "educating member firms", the Exchange is not yet taking concrete steps to solve the pricing problems. Martin Wheatley, head of markets development at the Stock Exchange, said last week that structural changes were unlikely at least until the New Year.

Changes that have been suggested include moving the trading day back one hour – a move that Mr Wheatley says he has not completely ruled out – forcing major institutions, many of which do not start trading until 10am, to trade earlier in the day, and calculating "closing" prices before the Exchange's official closing time of 4.30pm.

Competition hits BT harder than expected

British Telecom is set to lose a much bigger slice of its domestic customer base than previously forecast as competition bites deeper into its near-monopoly of residential exchange lines, according to Don Cruickshank, the industry regulator. The latest estimate by Oftel, the telephones watchdog, is that BT's share of residential exchange lines will drop to 70 per cent by 2000, down from 91 per cent at the end of last year. Oftel's previous prediction in May was that BT would retain 80 per cent of phone lines by the millennium.

In a speech to an industry conference yesterday, Mr Cruickshank also forecast that between 70 and 80 per cent of people would have a choice of three phone companies, compared with fewer than 10 per cent in 1996. Mr Cruickshank warned BT that the competitive challenge would intensify "to the benefit of customers". The UK phone market was opened to full competition in 1991.

BT yesterday intensified the price battle with rivals by announcing a 10 per cent cut in tariffs on weekend long-distance UK calls from 17 January. BT is also cutting between 12 and 21 per cent off calls to Japan. The cuts will knock £19.4m off BT's revenues, though only £7.6m of the reductions form part of Oftel's domestic price formula, which began in August. The price cap only applies to 80 per cent of homes and excludes businesses.

– Chris Godsmark

Pontin's camps to go back to their roots

Scottish & Newcastle yesterday announced a radical restructuring of its Pontin's holiday camp business which will involve the disposal of five of its 19 sites around the country.

Famous for its Blue Coats, Pontin's has helped spawn entertainers such as Shane Ritchie, Roger de Courcy and Jimmy Cricket.

S&N plans to return the business to its roots, offering traditional "Family Favourite" holidays. It will also continue to develop "Super Choice", which offers adventure holidays for children.

Pontin's has camps in some of the UK's most popular holiday destinations, such as Blackpool and Weston-Super-Mare. S&N refused to reveal which sites would be sold off.

One source said yesterday: "As soon as S&N can start producing higher returns from the remaining camps it is likely to look for a sale."

Pontin's profits nearly halved to £3.2m in the six months to October due to higher marketing and development costs.

However, that did not stop S&N recording a 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £224.5m thanks to a strong performance from its pub and brewing business.

S&N plans to spend more than £300m on its managed pub estate over the next two years. It is going to run down its 700-strong tenanted pub estate, selling some outlets and converting others to managed pubs.

– Andrew Yates

Investment column, page 24

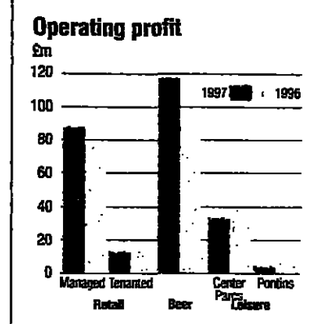
THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

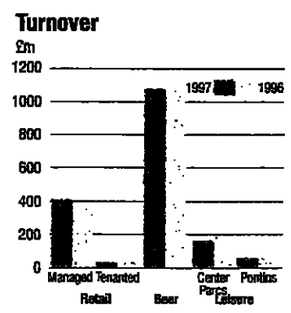
EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

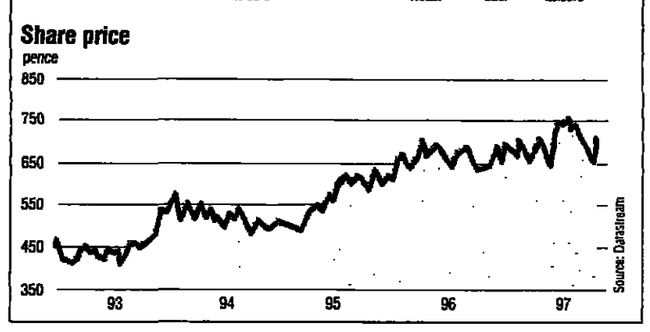
Scottish & Newcastle: At a glance

Market value: £4.4bn, share price 714p (+19.5p)

Trading record	1995	1996	1997	1996 (half year)	1997 (half year)
Turnover (£bn)	2.02	2.97	3.35	1.67	1.68
Pre-tax profits (£m)	264	157	372	195.1	224.5
Earnings per share (p)	36.4	18.5	46.7	24.3	27.5
Dividends per share (p)	18.0	19.4	21.4	7.21	7.93







Imperial can still find growth

Like the Government, the City has an aversion to tobacco. For evidence, look no further than the performance of Imperial Tobacco, the UK's largest cigarette maker. Despite the constant rumours of a bid from rival BAT, Imperial's share price has gone nowhere in the 14 months since it re-emerged from the Hanson empire.

Judged by yesterday's results, that is no surprise. Imperial reckons the UK cigarette market shrank by 5 per cent last year as a result of sharp increases in tobacco duty. With the price of a packet 19p dearer from yesterday, consumption is bound to carry on falling. And since the price hikes are prompting smokers to switch to cheaper brands, Imperial is also struggling to hang on to its market share. The looming advertising ban will make it even harder for the group to defend premium brands such as Embassy.

That said, Imperial has several factors in its favour. In true Hanson form, the management keeps finding new ways of squeezing extra productivity out of the business. Then there's expansion in international markets. Strip out the effects of the strong pound and the first-time contribution from cigarette paper maker Rizla, which Imperial bought in January, and underlying profits in the international businesses rose 17 per cent. That's in spite of a disastrous 24 per cent slump in French volumes as a result of a government price freeze.

Finally, there's Rizla, which chipped in operating profits of £16m in eight months. Although Imperial has already squeezed some cost savings out of the company, other measures, such as merging the sales forces, have yet to show up in its bottom line.

All this means Imperial's profits should continue to grow. BZW expects an 11 per cent rise to £340m this year, putting the shares, up 1p to 395p, on a forward earnings multiple of just nine.

Although twin threats of taxation and litigation justify a discount to the market, the current rating makes no allowance for Imperial's growth potential or the possibility of a bid. Good value.

S&N solid despite leisure slump

Whatever happened to the leisure boom? A year ago pundits were predicting that a combination of a strong economy and building society windfalls would lead to a golden era for the industry, with more punters splashing out on a game of bingo or a visit to their local holiday camp.

The reality has been rather different. Customers have preferred to go on exotic holidays abroad.

Huge investment in the industry has also caused intense competition for the leisure pound and hit margins. Now the brewers are desperately slashing investment and trying to sell off businesses.

Scottish & Newcastle highlighted the industry's problems yesterday when it announced that profits at its leisure division had slumped to £3.2m (£6.2m).

Its Pontin's holiday camps are still struggling and S&N's Centre Parcs concept continues to prove difficult to sell on the Continent.

Chances are Pontin's will soon be sold and Centre Parcs should come right eventually, although not for the next six months at least.

However, S&N's leisure woes should not detract from what was overall a great set of results.

The group still managed to beat analysts' forecasts by announcing a 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £225m, thanks to a sterling performance from its pub estate and beer business.

In a beer market where brands are becoming increasingly important, S&N has one of the best portfolios in the business. And in a pub market which is quickly dividing between winners and losers, S&N is emerging as a winner.

The testament to its success is the fact that the company is managing to maintain returns of 28 per cent from its investment in its managed estate.

Analysts forecast full-year profits of around £430m, putting the shares, up 19.5p to 714.5p on the good results yesterday, on a prospective price-earnings ratio of 13. On these figures, they are good value.

Bad news is good news for AEA

The worse the news gets from the Kyoto earth summit in Japan this week, the better it will suit AEA Technology, the consultancy and engineering arm of the Atomic Energy Authority, privatised just over a year ago.

The fight against global warming is one reason why AEA, which yesterday reported half-year operating profits to September up 41 per cent to £9m, believes it can double turnover to £500m by the turn of the millennium.

Environmental engineering already accounts for one-fifth of group turnover, with clients including most of the oil majors, and looks a good bet for further expansion.

Other growth opportunities include the railways, where AEA is working with Railtrack on new train safety systems, nuclear science, engineering software and batteries.

Just 15 months after flotation, AEA, which once relied on contracts from its former parents for more than half its turnover, is unrecognisable. The lithium-ion battery business – AEA has the rights to license the world's biggest producers – remains the mainstay of the technical products division and negotiations are under way with a Japanese partner to establish a plant in the UK producing rechargeable batteries.

After splashing out £40m to buy Hyprotech, a US process software business, and the environmental engineer ERG in the past six months, the pace of acquisitions may slow. But interest cover of 12 times leaves AEA with sufficient firepower.

AEA should make £29m in the full year, putting the shares, up 1p to 436.5p, on a forward multiple of 19. The group has lost its premium to the engineering services sector. But the shares, now 60 per cent above their issue price, could be due a rerating if Kyoto proves the CO2 cloud with a silver lining.

Zeneca claims 'plenty in the drugs pipeline' to reassure investors

A confidential independent investigation into Zeneca's drugs pipeline, believed to have been prepared by the accountants KPMG, has concluded that the UK's third biggest drug group is suffering from a serious shortage of new drugs, threatening future growth, according to sources close to Zeneca. *Sameena Ahmad* **reports.**

At a presentation yesterday updating analysts on its research programme, the company moved to quash investors' concerns over the quality of its drug pipeline in the face of key drug patent expiries, saying it had "plenty of fuel in the tank" to take the company into the next decade.

While shares in Zeneca reversed their recent weakness, jumping 60p to 1950p on a mood of renewed confidence about prospects, Glaxo Wellcome's shares bounced 40p to 1340p yesterday, despite announcing that it was withdrawing a diabetes drug in the UK after six people taking it had died. The bounce in Glaxo and SmithKline Beecham's share price yesterday followed unusual selling of the shares on Friday, prompting a stock exchange investigation.

At Zeneca's research and development presentation to analysts at Alderly Edge yesterday, Tom McKillop, CEO of Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, acknowledged that there were concerns about the group's prospects, but said the company planned to double sales in the next few years and with 26 new drug introductions planned in areas such as cancer, pain and respiratory disease, had "excellent" growth prospects. Mr McKillop, at one stage tipped to replace Sir David Barnes when he retires as chief executive, said observers were "overestimating the risks", associated with the US patent expiries on its heart drug Zestril in 2001 and cancer drug Nolvadex a year later. Though shares in the company, which have slumped in the last month after ABN Amro Hoare Govett, NatWest and Greig Middleton expressed concerns about its drug pipeline recovered yesterday, several remained unsatisfied.

One analyst said: "All that Zeneca has to offer is line extensions on existing products and new formulations. Glaxo is launching at least three times as many new drugs per year in the next five years and spends three times as much on research." Another analyst criticised Zeneca for failing to forge alliances with biotechnology companies fast enough: "For too long Zeneca thought it could go it alone."

Glaxo, the UK's biggest pharmaceutical company, said it was voluntarily halting British sales of troglitazone, its new drug to treat the common type II form of diabetes after six patients taking the drug had died of liver failure. A spokesman for Glaxo said none of the deaths was in the UK, where the drug, branded as Romozin, had been sold since 1 October. Last month, both Warner Lambert and Sankyo were forced to put a warning label on Rezulin, warning doctors in the US to give patients blood tests after 35 reports of liver injuries. Glaxo said that since then, there had been 147 incidents of liver disorder, including the six deaths.

Currently 5,000 patients in the UK have been prescribed Romozin and Glaxo said it had not yet had any reports of ill-effects here. The company, which currently sells the product only in the UK, but also has the rights to sell in Europe, Israel and South Africa, said it was also withdrawing its licensing rights in these other regions. Glaxo, which took its decision to halt UK sales with the agreement of the UK regulatory authority, the Medicines Control Agency, said it would not rule out dropping the product completely.

Analysts were unfazed by the news. Though troglitazone is potentially worth $1bn (£591m) in world-wide peak sales, Glaxo's share of the market represents just £150m at peak. Jo Walton at Lehman Brothers said the withdrawal was "slightly disappointing", and that the drug was only worth 5p on Glaxo's share price. Another analyst said: "Glaxo is still on track to meet its stated target of double digit sales and earnings growth in 1999. This will make no difference."

Outlook page 25

Tom McKillop, chief executive of Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, yesterday acknowledged that there were concerns about the group's prospects but said the company planned to double sales in the next few years with 26 new drug introductions

Prism Rail turns in first profits since flotation

Prism Rail, the privatised rail company which operates four lines in England and Wales, has raced to its first profits since its flotation last year, fuelling concerns that the franchises were sold too cheaply.

Prism turned a loss of £500,000 into a profit of £4.8m in the six months to October, boosted by lower costs and passenger revenue growth of 9 per cent.

The group is to invest £20m in train refurbishment and the improvement of stations over the next 18 months. Around £3m of this will be spent on a new station at West Ham, East London, while the retail development at Fenchurch Street station in the centre of the capital will be improved.

Prism said passenger revenue growth had been boosted by a lower fare avoidance rate helped by the introduction of more ticket barriers. Growth in the London-based companies, which include the London, Tilbury and Southend Line, were up by 10 per cent. Growth at the Wales and West country subsidiaries, which include Cardiff Railways and South Wales & South West, were ahead by 7 per cent.

Prism's chief executive, Giles Fearnley, said the group was considering moving up from the Alternative Investment Market to the main market.

Prism shares, which have hit the buffers since soaring to 580p following flotation, closed 4p higher at 371p.

– Nigel Cope

Stagecoach selected to operate Sheffield tramline

Stagecoach, the bus and trains group, has been selected as the preferred operator to run the Sheffield tram system. The company is in "detailed negotiations" with the existing operators, the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive.

Stagecoach declined to say how much it might pay to win the contract to run it but it is thought it would not be a sizeable figure. Stagecoach is not bidding for the assets of the system but purely the right to run it. The "Supertram" network became fully operation in 1995 after a long period when its construction caused sever disruption in the centre of Sheffield.

Separately, Stagecoach's train leasing subsidiary Porterbrook, has announced its first speculative rolling stock order since rail privatisation. The value of the order is estimated at £25m. The order is expected to comprise two and three car diesel units and should be available to train-operating companies from mid-1998. The lines operated by Stagecoach itself include South West Trains and the Isle of Wight line.

The order follows a number of similar expansion moves by Brian Souter's company, which reports its interims tomorrow. Last month it said it was planning a bid to run Luton Airport. The company is one of 14 bidders.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Acal (I)	74.64m (72.52m)	5.619m (4.648m)	17.9p (14.2p)	3.6p (3.6p)
AEA Technologh (Q)	126.7m (111.8m)	7.6m (1.1m)	6.3p (5.1p)	3.1p (2.75p)
AIT Group (I)	6.2m (5.1m)	0.958m (0.697m)	3.33p (2.42p)	0.66 (-)
Allea (I)	126.84m (71.10m)	7.13m (4.71m)	12.29p (8.75p)	4.2p (2.8p)
Bath Press (I)	33.95m (21.58m)	3.06m (1.64m)	1.04p (0.85p)	0.19p (0.16p)
Compeo Hldgs (I)	9.84m (4.99m)	2.508m (1.143m)	6.78p (3.87p)	1.0p (0.6p)
Dollywin Group (I)	16.47m (14.56m)	0.920m (0.946m)	6.57p (6.77p)	0.3p (-)
Detron (F)	26.46m (26.60m)	2.7m (2.3m)	9.9p (9.5p)	2.0p (-)
Eurocamp (SP)	102.8m (104.7m)	11.3m (9.27m)	21.8p (18.3)	11.5p (11.0p)
Imperial Tobacco (F)	3.88bn (3.82bn)	307.0m (373.0m)	40.7p (-)	14.2p (-)
Jennings Bros (F)	18.29m (16.29m)	0.188m (1.27m)	3.8p (13.8p)	7.75p (7.0p)
Leopold (I)	- (-)	1.023m (1.093m)	13.55p (15.22p)	4.5p (4.5p)
Thomas Locker (I)	31.16m (32.33m)	1.452m (1.378m)	1.17p (1.17p)	0.3p (0.3p)
Prism Rail (I)	238.9m (32.8)	4.84m (0.549m)	14.2p (8.8p)	5.0 (-)
RPC Group (I)	120.03m (48.29m)	7.57m (4.8m)	6.5p (5.8p)	1.5p (-)
SBS Group (F)	19.0m (15.2m)	0.792m (0.413m)	8.60p (4.15p)	0.6p (-)
Scottish & Newcastle (I)	1.68bn (1.65bn)	224.5m (195.1m)	27.5p (24.3p)	7.93p (7.21)
James Smiths Estates (I)	6.65m (3.90m)	1.960m (1.825m)	5.5p (5.1p)	2.10p (2.05p)
Eliza Tinsley (I)	23.98m (17.32m)	1.160m (0.702m)	6.0p (4.5p)	2.2p (2.1p)
Waterhouse (F)	47.7m (45.1m)	4.01m (1.75m)	4.5p (1.9p)	1.5p (1.5p)
H Young (F)	75.22m (56.93)	4.25m (2.62m)	14.1p (11.6p)	4.6p (4.2p)

(F) - Final (I) - Interim † EPS is pre-exceptionals * Dividend to be paid as a RID

Accountants lodge merger proposal

Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand yesterday formally submitted their merger proposal to European Commission regulators following their partners' substantial vote in favour of the plan.

The two accounting and consulting firms, which announced plans to create a $13bn (£7.6bn) global practice with 8,500 partners and 135,000 staff in September, expect the Brussels authorities to take several months to investigate the deal. It is understood the regulators are likely to examine the planned $18bn link-up between KPMG and Ernst & Young, two other Big Six accounting firms, at the same time.

Mike Rake, KPMG's UK chief operating officer, said yesterday that, although the two firms' partners would not be voting until the new year, the organisations' managements had the authority to commit them to a merger in principle and were already finalising their merger document.

Centrica to offer home contents insurance

Gas consumers are to be able to buy home and contents insurance from their gas company as part of Centrica's move into financial services. The gas distributor said yesterday its trial insurance package would offer an average annual saving of £75. Centrica said the offer, which is being made in partnership with Privilege, the UK insurer, will be extended to customers throughout the country early next year. The package combines a high level of cover with rebates redeemable against gas and gas-related services or a range of household products. "Home insurance is a logical extension of our current financial services portfolio," said Centrica's chief executive Roy Gardner. Centrica already operates the Goldfish credit card.

Seoul's IMF talks continue

South Korea and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) resumed talks last night on a package to rescue the country's economy after an initial deal foundered. South Korean state-run radio reported that the two sides had disagreed over South Korea's growth rate next year and the IMF's demand that 12 merchant banks be liquidated. The report also said the package called for total loans of $55bn, with $20bn coming directly from the IMF and the remainder from other countries and international institutions. Lim Chang-yuel, the Finance and Economy Minister, refused to comment on the reports, but said the difference of opinion between the parties was being narrowed and he expected an agreement to be reached soon.

UDO receives bid approach

Shares in UDO Holdings soared 14 per cent yesterday as the reprographic services and drawing office equipment group said it had received an approach which might lead to an offer being made for the company. UDO said the offer would not exceed a share price of 210p. UDO closed at 182.5p. The statement came in response to recent moves in the company's share price, which rose from 142.5p to 160p at the end of last week.

Granada sells French unit

Granada, the media to hotels group, continued its disposal programme yesterday when it sold its French motorway services business for £83m. The company is selling Société de Gestion de Restaurant Bars sur les Autoroutes to Autogrill International for FFr 700m (£71m) in cash. Under the contract it will first sell Forte France's interest in the share capital of Corela to Sogerba for an additional cash consideration of FFr120m.

Mayborn warns on profits

Shares in Mayborn, the baby goods and dye group best known for its Tommee Tippee, Maws and Dylon brands, lost one-third of their value after the group revealed that its full-year profits will fall short of market expectations. Profits for the year to the end of December are now expected to be between £4.5m and £5.0m against earlier expectations of between £6.6m and £6.7m.

هكذا من الاصل

OUTLOOK

ON ORDER-DRIVEN TRADING, THE COAL INDUSTRY AND ZENECA'S PROBLEMS

Blatant abuse is just the tip of the problem

Experience with the stock exchange's new order driven trading system seems to be going from bad to worse. To begin with, the system seemed open merely to ridicule; now it appears to be open to manipulation and abuse too.

Since the launch of Sets on 20 October, the stock market has been notably more volatile. In part, that is down to more pronounced worldwide volatility in equity markets. However, in Britain the new system has greatly enhanced the problem, creating some local difficulties all of our own.

At first it appeared that the effect of this was just to confuse. Oh, and, of course, to disadvantage the poor old retail investor, but whoever cared about him? This nonetheless might be seen as bad enough. Prices have been yo-yoing about all over the place, and even for big institutional investors, it has become increasingly hard to know what the going price is or ought to be. Now we have growing evidence of much worse - abuse of the system.

Precisely what happened last Friday when the price of some leading pharmaceutical stocks was driven down at the end of the day will have to await the judgement of regulators. However, the suspicion must be that there was a deliberate attempt to influence the closing level of the FTSE 100 index, probably for the purpose of bolstering a separate hedging futures contract. Whatever the details of this particular case, the point is that the new system makes it generally easier to indulge in questionable practice of this type.

The great bulk of orders tend to get withdrawn towards the end of the day, because with increased volatility in world markets, nobody likes to leave them on the system over night, lest they get disadvantaged the next morning. That makes it easy to drive through bargains towards the end of play at silly prices; there's no one around to trade at a more sensible level. The silly price thus becomes the one that gets used to calculate the closing FTSE index.

This type of obvious abuse is only the devious tip of a much wider problem, however. Agency brokers claim that the system is generally open to manipulation by the big market makers, who place and withdraw orders to suit their own books. As a result, only 40 per cent of trades in FTSE 100 stocks are through the new system. The rest go through the old quote driven system. Unfortunately, the old system has ceased to work as it once did, since market makers are no longer obliged to deal at the quoted price, if indeed they are quoting one at all. The market makers have, as a consequence, never had it so good. The rest of us have rarely had it so bad.

At this stage it is not entirely clear what the stock exchange can do about all this. It is no longer possible to pass off these difficulties as mere teething problems. So much has been invested in the new system in terms of ego and money, that abandoning the new and going back to the old would no longer seem an option. It must be possible to make the new system work better than it has, but it is clear the Exchange will have to go much further than the little bit of tweaking here and there it has attempted so far. One thing is certain. Whatever happens, the small retail investor will as always be the loser.

Things are getting distinctly dirty down at the bottom of the mineshaft and we are not talking here about the odd spot of coal dust on Richard Budge's neatly pressed overalls. The chief executive of RJB Mining has told ministers that he would sooner fill the shafts with concrete than hand his pits over to rival operators. Whitehall hints darkly, meanwhile, that the unpublished Department of Trade and Industry report into the collapse of Mr Budge's former company might see the light of day unless he plays ball. If that were not enough, scurrilous rumours abound that one generator in particular would come to the rescue of both ministers and miners by purchasing more coal if, in return, it were allowed to buy a regional electricity company.

The demise of the British coal industry is proving a rich seam of political intrigue, backstabbing and double-dealing. But this much at least is clear. There is no love lost between the three main players in this epic drama, New Labour, Mr Budge and the generators. This makes tomorrow's Commons trade and industry select committee hearings a must for all bloodsport fans.

The most remarkable feature of the affair is how poorly the Government has handled it. Instead of being drawn into a sideshow about the merits of subsidising the coal industry, ministers need to play the environmental card. Coal has no future if Britain is serious about meeting its targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Why not concentrate on the good news, which is that the 5,000 mining jobs likely to go could be replaced twice over through energy efficiency schemes? With the Kyoto earth summit at the top of the bill, ministers have a god-given opportunity to play the ace.

When ICI and Zeneca demerged almost five years ago there seemed little doubt as to which company would offer investors the most excitement. How could the yawn-making world of commodity chemicals governed by little other than economic cycles compete with the frenetic pace of change in the pharmaceutical industry, where innovations in biotechnology and genetic research were piling on competitive pressure and forcing the major drug companies to get nimble or get taken over?

However, as Zeneca yesterday defended itself against accusations that it has failed to respond quickly enough to market changes and has let its drug pipeline run dry, it is Zeneca, not ICI which looks unable to throw off the shackles of its old corporate identity. While ICI, under ex-Unilever man, Charles Miller Smith, has been busy reinventing itself - swapping at record speed commodities business for high margin speciality chemicals - Zeneca looks like it has only just caught the boat on many market developments - biotechnology alliances, genomics, for example - which have turned its more aggressive competitors Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham into world forces in the drug industry.

Not surprisingly Zeneca has been a much better investment than ICI. Over the last four years, shares in Zeneca have outperformed the market by almost 70 per cent, compared to a dismal 21 per cent underperformance from ICI. However the chemicals and drugs sectors naturally attract different share price ratings. Moreover much of Zeneca's share price growth has been driven by bid speculation.

There aren't many medium sized drug companies left to buy and in an industry where global consolidation really makes sense, Zeneca has been a natural bid target. Unfortunately, potential buyers look in short supply. Roche, the most likely, has splashed much of its cash on other acquisitions and Glaxo would have to think hard about another hostile bid, given the disruption that integrating Wellcome caused. Without a bidder, Zeneca looks exposed. Though it tried hard yesterday to point out how many new products it had coming on line, most of what it has to offer are new versions of existing drugs rather than a full pipeline of late stage products ready to launch. Zeneca's main problem is management in general and the congenial Sir David Barnes in particular. Those who know the company talk of a English gentleman's club atmosphere where never a harsh word is raised. In the absence of a bidder, things plainly need to change.

Strong figures make City nervous ahead of MPC meeting

A batch of economic figures released yesterday has heightened City jitters ahead of Thursday's Bank of England interest rate announcement. *Lea Paterson* asks whether yet another rate hike is on the cards.

New data suggests that consumers are hitting the high street, houses prices are up and companies are starting to struggle to meet demand. Consumer credit jumped by £901m in October, according to the Bank of England, the latest Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) shows that growth in the UK's manufacturing sector has hit a seven-month high and Halifax says house prices rose by 0.9 per cent in November.

Edmund Nonis, economist at Nikko Europe, said the figures would "create a lot of nervousness in the market" ahead of this week's meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee.

Most City commentators are predicting that the Bank of England will keep interest rates unchanged on Thursday and are anticipating further rate hikes after the new year. But, after last month's surprise rate rise, the markets are becoming nervous in the run-up to the Bank's announcement. Ian Stewart, economist at Merrill Lynch, said: "I think it [an interest rate rise] is unlikely but it can't be wholly ruled out."

Recent indications have been that the overheating UK economy, following five rate rises since May, could be finally beginning to cool. But figures released yesterday suggest that underlying economic growth is still very strong. "Overall, the numbers were slightly stronger than expected," admitted Mr Stewart of Merrill Lynch.

Economists were particularly concerned yesterday at lengthening delivery times, which grew last month at their fastest rate since June 1995. Increasing delivery times are regarded as evidence that companies are struggling to meet consumer demand and that inflationary pressure is starting to build. Mr Stewart said: "It does seem as if bottlenecks are beginning to build."

As well as the PMI and the consumer credit figures, yesterday also saw the publication of provisional November figures for M0, a narrow measure of money supply. M0 grew by 1 per cent in November, slightly ahead of expectations, and has risen by 6.8 per cent in the year. But the jump in M0 was exaggerated by the introduction of the new 50p coin, the Bank of England said. According to Salomon Smith Barney: "Excluding the new 50p coin, the previous slowing trend in the growth of notes and coin [one of the principal constituents of M0] would have continued."

The growth in the manufacturing sector last month was largely due to buoyant domestic demand, according to the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (Cips), which publishes the PMI. Cips said: "Demand was once more principally driven as the strength of the pound continued to have a negative impact on domestic demand." Overall, the PMI rose to 53.9 last month, up 0.1 on October. But, despite the strong pound, new export orders grew marginally for the second month on the run, a fact which surprised some City commentators.

Windfall payments were the key driver behind yesterday's booming consumer credit figures, economists said yesterday. Net consumer credit grew by £901m (1.1 per cent) in October, following a £800m rise in September. This was "broadly in line with expectations", according to economists at Nikko Europe, who were more concerned with the jump in gross consumer credit to the highest level on record.

Hundreds of thousands of members of Northern Rock, the former building society, were the latest beneficiaries of the windfall payouts. In October, Northern Rock became a bank in a £2bn conversion.

The latest rise in house prices, which are now 6.1 per cent higher than last year, according to the Halifax house price index, was higher than expected. The index is now at its highest point since June 1989. But Halifax said the increase was unlikely to be sustained in the coming months. It said: "The recent rises in interest rates, and slower economic growth more generally in the UK in 1998, should ensure house price inflation of around 5 per cent in 1998."

Not all of yesterday's economic data suggested inflationary pressure was building. The Bank revised its preliminary estimates of October M4 downwards, suggesting that inflationary pressure could be slightly less than first thought. But economists played down the significance of this yesterday, saying the MPC was more likely to be concerned with forward-looking signals when it begins its two-day meeting tomorrow.

Breaking distribution barriers: Box office hits such as 'The Full Monty' (above) and 'Four Weddings and a Funeral' are rare Photograph: image.net

Surge in value of sterling threatens investment in UK film production

The boom in British film-making and the drive to encourage more City firms to back UK productions could be threatened by this year's surge in the value of the pound, according to industry experts.

Premila Hoon, from the merchant bankers Guinness Mahon, an adviser to many film-makers and backers, said the slump in the pound in the mid-1990s was the main spur to foreign investment in production capacity.

But she warned that the fate of the UK's film-making base remained precarious.

Just £700m a year is invested in film production, less than the average £1bn budget of each of the big US studio and distribution groups.

Ms Hoon said the recent increase in the pound had already deterred foreign film-makers from using UK facilities. "There aren't any big films out there on the horizon. British studios have less big films in the pipeline."

Film finance experts also warned yesterday that the lack of a UK-owned distribution network with the power to encourage cinemas to show lower-budget movies remained the principal barrier to the growth of the domestic industry. Film-makers use distribution deals as collateral to persuade banks to lend money, but the UK lacks a single large distribution company.

British box office successes such as *The Full Monty* and *Four Weddings and a Funeral* managed to break through the distribution barrier but many more films never make it to the cinemas..

Ms Hoon said: "The question is whether the improvement will continue. I don't think it will unless there's a sustained investment in distribution."

– Chris Godsmark

Shareholders angry as Eagle Trust is wound up

After a stormy meeting, shareholders in Eagle Trust, the disgraced conglomerate, yesterday voted overwhelmingly to wind up the company. *Andrew Yates* reflects on the group's spectacular and turbulent history.

The curtain was drawn on one of the most complicated and controversial corporate disasters ever known yesterday when Eagle Trust appointed liquidators to wind up the company.

Several disgruntled shareholders voiced their displeasure about how David James, the self-styled company doctor, had handled the break-up of the former industrial and television conglomerate over the past eight years.

Eagle Trust's problems started when John Ferriday, the group's former chairman, was found to have stolen £13m from the company, for which he later received a six-year jail sentence. Faced with debts of more than £100m and rising, Mr James was appointed to sort out the group's problems and save it from bankruptcy.

However, just months later Eagle Trust found itself embroiled in the Iraqi supergun scandal. Walter Somers, one of its subsidiaries, was discovered to have manufactured the main barrel for the gun.

Since then more than 20 Eagle Trust businesses have been sold off. However shareholders expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of proceeds that had found their way back to them.

Complaints centred on the flotation of Visual Action, the film equipment hirer, which joined the market in March 1996 with a price tag of £85m, only to be bought by a US rival for £148m within the past few months.

Mr Simons, an Eagle Trust shareholder, launched a prolonged attack on Mr James which lasted more than an hour. "What are you and the board doing by making a present of Visual Action at the expense of us shareholders?" he demanded.

Mr James explained that he had received several offers for Visual Action during 1995, the highest of which was for just £46m. He explained that the group had to sell the business in that year to pay back debts and avoid penalty interest charges. "Only by floating Visual Action could Eagle Trust remove itself from the shadow of insolvency overhanging the group," said Mr James.

Eagle Trust's shares were delisted at 18p, valuing the group at £138m and leaving 31,000 small shareholders with the prospect of losing their whole investment. After numerous restructurings shareholders have received just £7.7m back, equivalent to 1p per ordinary share. The rest of the money raised has gone to pay back bankers, such as Standard Chartered, NatWest and Lloyds, and a large number of creditors.

One shareholder criticised Mr James for his pay packet while supervising Eagle Trust's demise. He denied he had received an excessive salary. "I have received a total of £2.6m in the past eight years. Out of that I have had to fund my own office, secretary, car and pension. After all that the total payment represents less than 1 per cent of the cash recovered and generated over the past eight years," Mr James said.

Mr James now goes on to face another daunting challenge. He has been charged with turning around Sears' beleaguered British Shoe Corporation.

British businesses unaware of EU law that will force them to consult with employees

British business is in blissful ignorance of impending European legislation which will force it to consult and inform employees' representatives, according to an employers' group.

New laws will oblige them to make fundamental changes to the way they deal with their staff, says the Employers' Forum on EU Social Policy, whose corporate membership employs 250,000 people.

While companies have developed team and individual briefings to make contact with their workforce, European legislation will introduce a system based on collective representation. Together with the Government's intention to make union recognition compulsory when workers vote for it, the new European law has critical implications for industrial relations in this country.

The forum concedes, however, that its membership, made up of personnel directors, have a battle on their hands to convince their boards of the seriousness of the issue.

The European Union statute will force companies with more than 50 employees to consult and inform on a wide range of issues. "What they got away with in the past they will not be able to get away with in future," said Elaine Aarons, of Eversheds solicitors and chairwoman of the forum.

She argued that British companies already ignored domestic law on consultation. She believed it would be a mistake for companies to think it was merely a question of "compliance" with the new statute.

European unions and employers' bodies have been given most of next year to agree the shape of works council structures to be introduced with a view to the law being enacted at the end of next year. If no deal can be struck, the European Union will draw up its own system which would then be imposed on business by the end of 1999.

– Barrie Clement

هكذا من الأصل

26/SHARES

Speculation surrounds building societies as Footsie jumps 90 points

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Footsie, assuming the calculation is relevant after Friday's fiasco, jumped 90 points with much of the excitement, not for the first time, swirling around financial shares.

Former building societies were again at the heart of the speculation with **Abbey National** jumping 34p to 979p on what appeared to be scattered late buying.

National Westminster Bank, expected to bow out of investment banking today, eased 13p to 885p and **Hambros**, rumoured to be in the sights of Société Générale, was little changed at 251p.

The NatWest retreat should see its equity arm go to US group Bankers Trust and Deutsche Bank take on the derivatives operations.

Hambros, which has still to recover from its humiliating involvement with Andrew Regan's Lanica Trust, is under pressure to reshape, with at least one hostile shareholder on its register. Robert Fleming and Schroders have, according to rumour, been examining the merchant bank, striving to come up with a new, more exciting strategy.

The acquisitive US bank Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette and the German Westdeutsche Landesbank are among those to look at the old established operation. An Italian bank, Gruppo Bancario San Paolo, with 16.6 per cent, is another in the frame.

But SocGen appears to have emerged as the favourite to strike. If it does, one of its first functions could be to sell on the quoted **Hambro Countrywide** estate agency chain, where Hambros has a controlling interest.

The estate agent could, in the short term, satisfy the ambitions of cash-rich **Halifax**, up 15.5p to 695.5p. Little changed at 110.5p, Countrywide is valued at a little under £400m, not much more than out-of-pocket expenses for the building society-cum-bank.

Woolwich, 8.5p higher at 311p, and **Alliance & Leicester**, 10p at 740p, were others in the money.

Insurances were strong with the hoary old story that they were merely reflecting the stock market's strength offered as one explanation. Almost certainly **General Accident's** 62p advance to 1,025p and **GRE's** 16.25p progress to 301.5p were due to more sophisticated expectations.

Other financials in the spotlight included Standard Chartered and Bank of Scotland.

Turnover was again unexciting and did not provide the sort of back-up expected for a 90 points Footsie gain. The index ended at 4,921.8 and, as if trying to underline the volatility of the order-driven trading system, the supporting FTSE 250 index had a much more sedate time, ending with just a 0.9 gain to 4,657.6.

On Friday late trades in **Glaxo Wellcome** and **SmithKline Beecham** sent the respective shares tumbling, encouraging Footsie to fall 57.2. The Stock Exchange said it was probing the latest index distortion and after the market closed, the US investment group JP Morgan said it had suspended two traders during an investigation into Friday's trading.

SB, down 50p on Friday, rallied 48p to 598p and, despite the suspension of a diabetes drug, Glaxo regained 40p of a 78p Friday reverse.

Zeneca, up 60p to 1,950p, responded to a positive investment presentation when the group highlighted its development programme, which covers 87 projects including 26 new compounds.

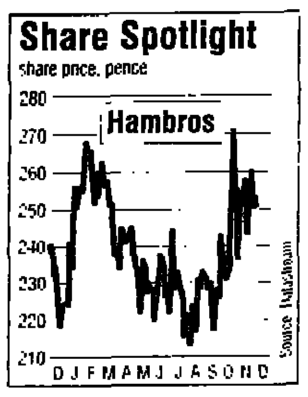
Talk of corporate developments at **Stakis**, the casino and hotel group, was responsible for a 3.5p gain to 103p and **Manchester Utd**, in its new slimline form, scored a 4p plus to 156p following its conquest of Blackburn Rovers.

Bass, figures tomorrow, frothed up 14p to 864p, on reports it is planning to sell its betting shops and bingo operations.

Suggestions, once again, that **Whitbread** is set to leave the beerage prompted an 18p rise to 855p. There are also reports that Whitbread and **Allied Domecq**, up 2.5p to 536.5p, are seeking to withdraw from the off-licence trade. **Scottish & Newcastle**, following results, gained 19.5p to 714.5p.

Firth, the steel group, reporting today, gained 3p to 35p, a two-day 7p advance. **UDO**, an office equipment business, jumped 22.5p to 182.5p on a signalled bid of up to 210p.

Share Spotlight



TAKING STOCK

H Young, with interests spreading from cycle accessories to Head sportswear, edged ahead 5.5p to 154p, a few coppers from its peak. The company lifted profits 62 per cent to £4.3m and should easily top £4.7m this year. With £4.5m in the bank, it is casting around for acquisitions but, because of the likely cost, will not mount hostile strikes.

Fitness First, a health club chain with 14 outlets, has forged a link with upmarket housebuilder Berkeley. The two have formed a joint venture, with funding of £10m, to open up to 15 clubs. Berkeley has taken a modest stake in Fitness First. The shares, which started market life at around 90p last year, rose 11p to 198.5p; Berkeley was little changed at 668.5p.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is the latest twelve months' declared gross dividend as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the shareprice divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding extraordinary items but including exceptionals. Other details: Ex rights; x Ex-dividend; a Ex-all; s Suspended; p Partly Paid; np Nil Paid; *AIM. Gilt Prices are Bloomberg Generics. Source: Bloomberg

The Independent Teleshare - Tel. 0891 - 201 200

To access Real-Time Share Prices, 24 hours a day, call 0891 - 201 200.

You will hear the current FTSE 100 Index followed by a Stock Market Summary Report.

You can interrupt at any time to hear a Real-Time Share Price by keying * plus a 4-digit 'code' from the listings on this page.

To get a Membership Number to set-up your Portfolio facility, please call the Help Desk on 0171-729-8288 (during business hours).

For help with the service, including the Portfolio facility, call the Help Desk on 0171-729-8288.

(TIS plc, London EC2A 4PJ). 0891 calls cost 50p per minute.

Seaq volume: 599m trades 47,693 **Gilts index 100.33 -0.05**

Market Leaders: Top 20 volumes (at 5:00pm)

Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol
BG	22.77m	Smithkline Beech	9.37m	Bank Scotland	6.87m	Unilever	5.85m
Reece	14.00m	Brit Telecom	8.93m	Woolwich	6.54m	Lucasvarity	5.36m
Shell Transp	10.68m	Brit Petroleum	7.74m	Hillsdown Hldgs	6.49m	Brit Energy	5.15m
Telewest Comm	10.24m	Glaxo Wellcome	7.07m	Lloyds TSB	6.04m	Templeton	5.10m
Centrica	9.57m	BAT Inds	6.88m	Lonrho	5.89m	Albright&Wilson	5.08m

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

Open	4831.8		11:00	4904.9	Up 73.1	14:00	4878.2	Up 46.4
9:00	4910.5	Up 78.7	12:00	4879.9	Up 48.1	15:00	4868.3	Up 36.5
10:00	4897.5	Up 65.7	13:00	4885.3	Up 53.5	16:00	4929.1	Up 97.3
						Close	4921.8	Up 90.0

Try BT's 0800 for just £25 connection. (Before your competitors do.)
Why not change the way we work? BT
Try an 0800 number for 3 months for only £25 plus call charges.
Freefone 0800 800 800
OFFER ENDS 31.12.97 ON CONNECTIONS BY 31.1.98.

Government Securities

Recent Issues

Stock	Price	Chg(p)
Aggreko	158.50	-1.00
Bristol & West Pfd	126.50	0.25
Canwell Lard	155.50	0.00
Grampian Gp	150.50	0.00
Metroline	185.00	0.00
MISYS (Jersey)	1635.00	0.00
Northern Rock	482.50	1.00
Severn Trent B	32.00	0.00
Thorn B	19.00	0.00

source: Bloomberg
www.bloomberg.com

مكذا من الاهل

TOCK

interests
m cycle
Head
lged ahead
a few coppers
The company
62 per cent to
ould easily top
ar. With £4.5m
is casting
quisitions but,
e likely cost,
at hostile

a health club
outlets, has
with upmarket
Berkeley. The
ned a joint
funding of
n up to 15
ey has taken a
in Fitness
ares, which
et life at
ast year, rose
r: Berkeley was
1 at 668.5p.

ve months declared gross ... is the shareprice
= including exceptionals.
ly Paid np Nil Paid: AIM
Source: Bloomberg

201 200

Where will the pound be five years from now? Will it even exist?

HAMISH McRAE ON THE STRENGTH OF STERLING

In those dark days in 1992, during the week before sterling was ejected from the European exchange rate mechanism, a top British official was trying to convince a sceptical Bundesbank audience that DM2.95 was the right rate for the pound. He duly showed all the graphs about UK competitiveness, seeking to make his case, and finished by declaring that amid all the uncertainties in the world, "the one thing you bet is the DM2.95 rate for the pound".

Well, a couple of days later the pound was devalued, and of course the sequel to the story is that yesterday the pound was back at DM2.98. The official was wrong on a five-day view, but right on a five-year one.

Which is more valid, the five-day perspective or the five-year one? The question arises because though the almost universal view at the moment is that the pound is seriously overvalued, it nevertheless seems likely to stay so for several months to come.

If that is right, then the damage to the economy that will accrue from the overvalued currency will gradually mount, until events (presumably in the shape of a sharp fall-off in growth and subsequent fall in interest rates) come along to reverse it.

There is, however, a minority view which holds that the pound may stay at these levels for a very long time, and that the present rate is not only sustainable, but desirable. Since we cannot do anything much about the exchange rate, the minority view is a more attractive one. It might even be right.

The mainstream view, that the pound is overvalued, would imply that there will be a sharp fall-off in growth next year. You can see the way in which the Treasury and the Bank of England both agree on this from the left-hand chart. They differ slightly on the profile of the decline, but their fundamental view is the same. They do, however, differ sharply on inflation (see graph): the Treasury thinks things will get worse, with underlying retail price inflation peaking at 3 per cent next year, while the Bank thinks things will be fine, with inflation falling below 2.5 per cent, the mid-point of the target range, through next year.

The main reason for the difference, apparently, is that the Bank thinks sterling will rise further in the early part of next year (promoted presumably by one or two further increases in rates) and this will hold down inflation. This would be consistent with the sharp slowdown in growth: the combination of higher interest rates, a further squeeze on exports and greater competition from imports certainly ought to slow the economy down.

But, as anyone with any experience in forecasting will appreciate, things are not always as they seem.

There seems to me to be three, maybe four, big uncertainties. The first is obviously the one identified above: the Treasury and the Bank's divergent views on inflation. There is clearly some sign of mounting pressure in the labour market and at some stage that ought, if past experience is any guide, to lead to upward wage pressure. But while there is also downward pricing pressure – the way in which any firm which ups its prices finds business running out of the door – this wage pressure may not be very marked.

Wages operate with a lag: we went on for a long time in the 1950s with very low levels of unemployment and without large wage increases because culturally there was not a climate of large wage demands. That climate seems to have been recreated today, a beneficial effect of all the job insecurity we have suffered.

Besides, there is still considerable room for boosting productivity. The Chancellor noted last week in his Green Budget that UK productivity was 20 per cent below continental competitors. If that is right, and in some industries it almost certainly is correct, then there is considerable scope for improvement. But it needs pressure to force out this productivity.

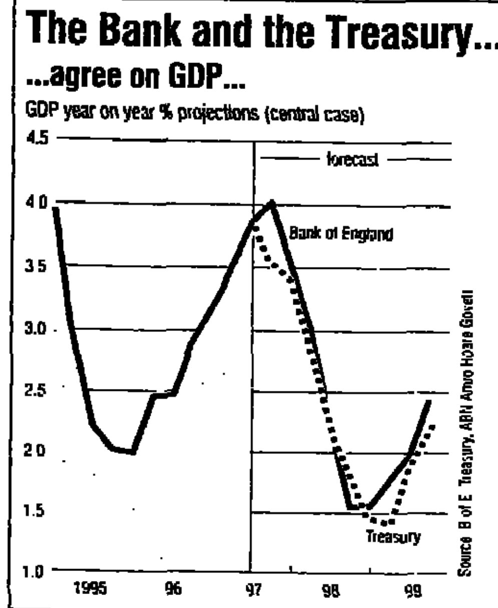
This is the second area of uncertainty. Will a strong sterling have a radical impact on industrial productivity? Three years ago there was a sudden surge in the German mark. This had a searing impact on Germany industry, coming simultaneously with an excessive pay settlement: the result was rapid downsizing of workforces, leading to the present levels of unemployment but also to sharply improved company performance. Once British firms are convinced that the pound may stay strong for some time, they will presumably take action to adjust their costs. The more radical that action, the more likely it is that the pound's strength will be sustained.

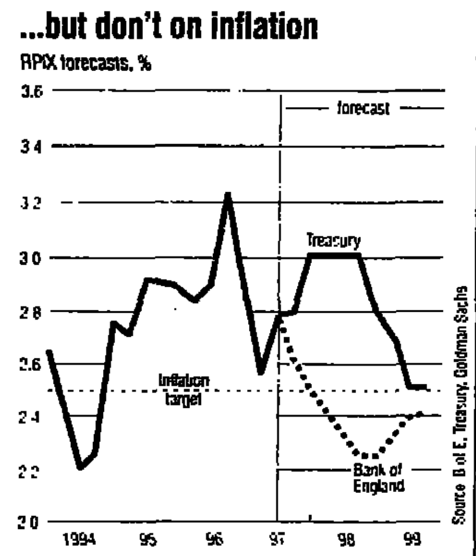
The third area of uncertainty has nothing to do with us: progress on the single European currency. The best working assumption is that sterling's "safe haven" status will be retained until the euro is so close to launch that the chances of the plan falling apart are minimal. That suggests that the pound's strength might be retained not just through next year but beyond into the first years of the next century. It would be helpful if one were able to cite historical precedents as a guide, but this is uncharted territory. Europe is heading on a journey without maps.

The fourth possible uncertainty is other external shocks: one might be more serious fallout from the East Asian financial crisis than currently seems likely. Another would be a sharp fall in the dollar, maybe associated with repatriation of Japanese funds from the US. Sterling behaves like a dollar-bloc currency, just as the UK economy behaves like a mini version of the US. So if the dollar were to fall sharply it would probably drag the pound down with it.

On a five-year view then, where will the pound be? Have a poll among "opinion-formers" and I would expect the average on some weighted measure to be about 10 per cent below the present, maybe a bit lower still. My bet would be that it will be pretty much where it is now and just as likely to be higher as lower. That, at least, would be my bet assuming that the pound still exists. It remains just possible that it won't. Even in a democracy, do not underestimate the ability of politicians to go against the electorate.

The Bank and the Treasury...





PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK

Anthony Julius, the litigation lawyer best known for the legal work he performed for Princess Diana, is seeking to divorce his wife and marry the daughter of a client of his firm, Mischon de Reya.

The saga started when **Dina Rabinovitch**, a London freelance journalist and mother of three, and her husband **Guido Rauch**, a derivatives trader at Banque Paribas, instructed Mr Julius to act on Dina's father's behalf.

According to *The Lawyer* magazine, the father, Nahum Rabinovitch, an ultra-orthodox rabbi who lives in Israel's West bank, had a legal dispute with a London publishing company. Dina Rabinovitch travelled with Mr Julius in March this year to see his client in Israel and to take witness statements. Mr Julius subsequently began settlement talks in May and reached an agreement six weeks later.

The publishers paid £40,000 towards Mr Julius's costs, leaving a balance of £32,000 paid by Guido Rauch.

While the case was going on Mr Julius and Dina appear to have decided to divorce their respective spouses and marry each other. Mr Julius told his wife at the end of March that he was intending to leave her and Dina Rabinovitch announced that she was leaving her husband a few days later.

Mr Julius, author of *TS Eliot: Anti-Semitism and Literary Form*, moved out of the family home in north-west London in July and Ms Rabinovitch left in November.

Mr Rauch said last night: "No comment." A spokeswoman for Mischon de Reya said on behalf of Mr Julius: "He's not commenting."

Guess which Government spokesman will announce today the details of New Labour's tax inducement for personal savings, to replace Peps and Tessas? None other than **Geoffrey Robinson**, the Paymaster General, who is currently under a hail of fire from the Tories over his role as a beneficiary of a £12.75m Guernsey-based offshore trust. Personally I don't see what all the fuss is about. At least Mr Robinson will know what he's talking about.

Hoggett Bowers, the leading executive search and selection agency, has just sent out an exciting piece of research to 1,000 of Britain's top companies about the merits of non-executive directors (NEDs).

In the circular the firm describes how it sent out a questionnaire to the chairmen of the country's 500 top listed companies, under the title: "The Fundaments of Research."

Hang on a minute. According to the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*, fundament has quite a different meaning to "fundamental", which is what I think the chaps at Hoggett & Bowers were getting at: "Fundament – The lower part of the body, on which one sits: the buttocks; also, the anus."

I suppose Hoggett Bowers may have unwittingly summed up what most company bosses really think of non-execs.

Which brings us, entirely coincidentally, to Alliance & Leicester's chief executive, **Peter White**, who has just been appointed a non-executive director of Reckitt & Colman. Mr White has recently guided the former building society from mutual status into the ranks of Britain's high street banks. I'm sure he'll cut the mustard at R&C.

A member of the Ford car dynasty is set to chair the global motor company for the first time since 1980. **William Clay Ford Jr** will succeed manufacturing guru **Alex Trotman** when the latter retires at the end of 1999.

Henry Ford II was the last descendant of the founder of the Detroit car giant to head the firm. Since then the management has been dominated by non-family professionals. It is expected that **Jacques Nasser**, president of automotive operations, will become the next chief executive officer alongside William Clay Ford Jr. The company has asked Mr Trotman to remain as chairman and CEO until the end of the century, after his 65th birthday in July 1998, in order to complete his ambitious cost-cutting programmes.

Geoffrey Howe is to leave Clifford Chance and join Robert Fleming to be the investment bank's general counsel. No, not that Geoffrey Howe. This one is a career lawyer in his late forties who has spent the last nine years helping transform Clifford Chance from being a UK based firm to an international business. I wonder if his name is a help or a hindrance?

Singer & Friedlander has appointed **Graham Hall** as a director of its corporate finance division. Mr Hall was previously a director of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell's investment banking division.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark Spot
UK	10000			05940	05948	05965	03340
Australia	24869	24845	24789	14772	14779	14788	08306
Austria	21072	21038	20971	12517	12514	12510	70377
Belgium	61759	61532	61163	36685	36601	36487	20627
Canada	23981	23907	23783	14245	14220	14188	08009
Denmark	11396	11358	11294	67690	67560	67375	38060
ECU	15096	15054	14983	1152	1167	1188	08052
Finland	90565	90227	89680	53796	53669	53499	30248
France	10019	9984	9921	59515	59385	59184	33464
Germany	29941	29840	29657	17785	17749	17692	10000
Greece	46956	47269	47803	27892	28117	28517	15683
Hong Kong	13020	13021	13082	77340	77450	78040	43486
Ireland	11484	11473	11445	14660	14653	14647	08243
Italy	29310	29276	29192	17410	17414	17414	97891
Japan	21721	21575	21324	12903	12834	12721	72547
Malaysia	60017	59984	60087	35650	35680	35845	20045
Mexico	13771			81800			45994
Netherlands	33731	33610	33407	20036	19992	19928	11266
New Zealand	27632	27584	27480	06093	16408	16393	03426
Norway	12215	12171	12104	72555	72399	72205	40796
Portugal	30587	30521	30390	18169	18155	18129	10216
Saudi Arabia	63140	63077	62929	37506	37520	37540	21088
Singapore	26975	27000	26960	16023	16061	16083	09009
South Africa	81902	82554	83522	48650	49105	49825	27355
Spain	25306	25251	25141	15032	15020	14898	84521
Sweden	13158	13122	13064	78156	78051	77931	43945
Switzerland	24108	23981	23761	14320	14264	14174	08052
US	16835			10000			05623

Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	16835	10000	Oman	06481	03850
Brazil	18671	11091	Pakistan	74074	44000
China	13939	82796	Philippines	58586	34800
Czech Rep	59310	35230	Poland	59933	35600
Egypt	57178	33964	Qatar	61275	36398
Ghana	37744	22420	Russia	99646	59190
Hungary	33712	20025	South Korea	19385	115150
India	65959	39180	Taiwan	53889	32010
Indonesia	62625	37200	Thailand	69444	41250
Kuwait	05118	03040	Turkey	329932	195980
Nigeria	13215	78500	UAE	61827	36725

Interest Rates

UK		Germany		US		Japan	
Base	7.25%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.50%	Discount	0.50%
France		Lombard	4.50%	Discount	5.00%	Belgium	
Intervention	3.30%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.81%	Discount	2.75%
Italy		Prime	5.50%	Spain		Central	3.30%
Discount	6.25%	Discount	4.00%	10-d Repo	5.00%	Switzerland	
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount	1.00%
SpAdvance	3.30%	Discount	3.50%	Repo(Ave)	4.10%	Lombard	3.38%

Bond Yields

Country	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	5 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	–	000	497	-002	529	000	588	001	622	002
Belgium	367	001	408	-001	424	-001	503	001	560	000
Canada	372	-005	456	001	477	001	528	000	560	-003
ECU	456	000	473	001	464	001	513	-001	558	-001
France	000	000	393	000	440	-001	493	000	544	000
Germany	378	002	408	-002	419	-001	504	001	545	-001
Italy	576	-004	539	-003	520	-004	546	-003	591	-004
Japan	015	000	036	001	045	000	114	-001	195	-001
N'lands	375	-001	409	-003	429	002	499	001	543	000
Spain	480	-005	460	-006	468	000	521	000	574	-001
Sweden	437	002	498	001	518	-001	594	-003	619	-004
S'land	185	-008	202	-007	188	-002	272	-005	350	-001
UK	705	000	796	003	710	-002	678	000	651	000
US	507	000	523	002	575	000	581	-003	585	-003

Money Market Rates

	Overnight Bid	Offer	1 week Bid	Offer	1 month Bid	Offer	3 months Bid	Offer	6 months Bid	Offer	1 year Bid	Offer
Treasury Bills					720	705	720	705				
LIBOR												
Domestic Depos	713	725	719	731	744	750	763	769	772	778	784	791
Eurosterling Deps	725	725	725	731	750	756	767	769	772	775	781	788
Eligible Bank Bills					733	725	735	727	745	735		
Sterling CDs					748	740	767	759	773	767	778	772
Eurodollar CDs					558		586		589			
ECU Deposits					438	447	444	453	450	459		

www.bloomberg.com Source: Bloomberg

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract		Settlement	High	Low	Est floor volume	Open interest
Long Gilt	Dec-97	11900	11934	11884	14837	65893
German Bund	Dec-97	10398	10402	10382	128229	220911
US Long Bond	Dec-97	11934	-	-	--	-
Italian Bond	Dec-97	11391	11395	11361	63720	96098
Japan Govt Bd	Dec-97	13017	13025	13011	3883	
3 Mth Sterling	Dec-97	9230	9231	9228	14861	162725
	Mar-98	9225	9226	9222	15836	122284
3 Mth Euromark	Dec-97	9621	9622	9620	21257	283498
	Mar-98	9608	9609	9607	21557	325193
3 Mth Eurolira	Dec-97	9400	9400	9394	10431	112238
	Mar-98	9477	9477	9468	12601	124511
3 Mth Euroyen	Dec-97	9928	9929	9929	726	..
3 Mth Euroswiss	Dec-97	9817	9818	9811	7697	57696
	Mar-98	9822	9822	9813	14638	45033
3 Mth ECU	Dec-97	9546	9546	9543	553	8786
	Mar-98	9541	9541	9539	469	6992
FTSE 100	Dec-97	495000	496000	487500	1030	61415

Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option

Settlement Price: 492180

Series	Nov Call	Imp Vol	Put	Imp Vol	Dec Call	Put	Jan Call	Put	Feb Call	Put
4850	131	19	8	8	176	73	246	129	323	185
4900	81	14	23	9	142	90	217	149	292	204
4950	31	9	6		110	110	186	169	261	223
5000	5	6	25		82	135	153	191	227	244

Energy

* at 5:30pm

Brent Crude ($/barrel) IPE	Last*	Chg	Vol	Gas oil ($/tonne) IPE	Close	Chg	Vol	WTI Crude ($/barrel) NYM	Last*	Chg	Products ($/tonne) Spot CIF NW Eur	
Nov		1979	0	Dec	16350	-825	11911	Dec	1916	1916	Gasoline 95	18700
Dec	1978	1978	1450	Jan	16450	-725	8898	Jan	1871	1870	Naphtha	18800
Mar	1815	070	[illegible]	Feb	16500	-675	4098	Feb	1895	1896	Gasoil	16900
								Mar	1912	1913	Fuel Oil (3.5%)	9600

Commodity Indices

Goldman Sachs at 5:30pm

	Base date	Last	Chg	%chg	31 Dec	%chgYTD
Index	1970=100	19975	106	056	21526	-1165
Agricultural	1970=100	24136	253	106	23123	438
Energy	1983=100	6373	052	075	8595	-1873
Ind Metals	1977=100	16400	000	000	16879	-284
Livestock	1970=100	17855	-181	-100	19103	-653
Prec Metals	1973=100	39003	-349	-089	46354	-1586

Industrial Metals

LME ($/tonne)	Cash		Chg	3 month		Chg	LME stocks	Chg
Aluminium HG	1568	1569	-1500	1591	1592	-13	868400	-3700
Aluminium Alloy	1445	1455	500	1460	1465	0	43440	220
Copper A	1814	1815	-3900	1842	1843	-37	338725	-875
Lead	523	524	-900	540	541	-8	116750	-75
Nickel	6075	6085	-1500	6170	6175	-10	66654	-372
Tin	5780	5790	-4000	5670	5680	-65	6110	95
Zinc	1105.5	1106.5	-3450	1131	1132	-32	494700	-825

Precious Metals

pm fix/$ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	pm fix/£ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	Coins ($)		Year's chg
Platinum	38350	-050	975	Platinum	22855	005	575	Krugrands	29235	-7855
Palladium	20450	-450	9000	Palladium	12170	-365	5370	Sovs	6870	
Silver	524	-006	049	Silver	311	-004	030	Nobles	37405	
Gold	29435	-245	-7695					Maple Leaf	30635	-7730

Agricultural

* at 5:30pm

Cocoa		Coffee		Barley		Potatoes		Lge Potatoes	
LIFFE	£/tonne	LIFFE	$/tonne	LIFFE	£/tonne	LIFFE	£/tonne	ATA	$/25k kg
Dec97	98600	Nov97	167200	Nov97	8325	Nov97	8060	Nov97	72600
Mar98	101500	Jan98	173800	Jan98	7545	Mar98	9500	Apr98	71900
May98	103400	Mar98	172800	Mar98	7800	Apr98	11900	Jun98	72250
Vol:	3855	Vol:	10841	Vol:	10	Vol:	179	Vol:	105470

White Sugar*		Freight		Wheat		Corn*		Soya Beans*	
LIFFE	$/tonne	LIFFE	$10/pt	LIFFE	£/tonne	CBOT	Cents/bshl	CBOT	$/5k bshls
Dec97	31600	Nov97	117100	Nov97	8530	Dec97	27325	Nov97	2300
Mar98	31270	Dec97	122500	Jan98	8045	Mar98	28350	Jan98	2840
May98	31790	Jan98	124000	Mar98	8260	May98	28975	Mar98	3080
Vol:	2131	Vol:	14	Vol:	396	Vol:	185840	Vol:	91

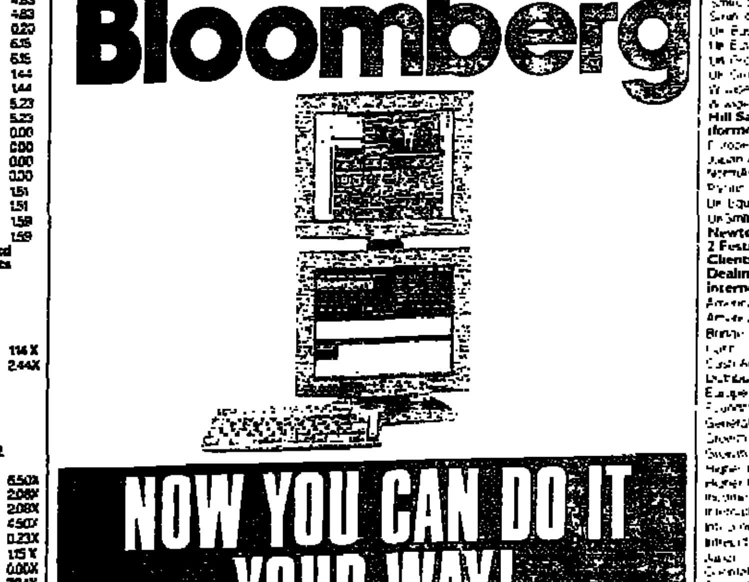
Other Softs

at 5:30pm

Dec	Live Cattle	(CME) $/40k lb	6680	Dec	White Maize	(SAF) $/100 mt	80080
Feb	Pork Bellies	(CME) $/40k lb	5675	Dec	Rubber	(TCM) Y/5k kg	9010
Jan	Orange Juice	(CTN) $/15k lb	8000	Mar	Cotton	(CTN) $/50k lb	7052
Dec	Milk	(CSC) $/50k lb	1220	Dec	Crude Palm	(KLC) $/25 tn	170500
Mar	Oats	(CBT) $/5k bsh	15750	Jan	Soya Oil	(CBT) $/60k lb	2557
Jan	Flax	(WCE) $/20 tn	34300	Dec	Woollen Yarn	(TCM) $/500kg	125500

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Fund	Sell	Buy	Yld
AIB Govett Trust Ltd			
4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR			
Tel: 0171 378 7979			
American Strategy	24875	26389	000
Cash	954	959	575
European Strategy	13431	14364	000
FTSE Mid 250 Index	9629	10287	211
Geared UK Index	2157	2277	575
Greater China	19744	21117	000
Intl Growth	16145	17266	000
Japan General	10550	11170	000X
Monthly Income	4093	4381	874X
Pacific Strategy	10825	11577	000
UK Bear	500	526	505
UK Equity Safeguard	10804	11551	247
UK Index	1698	1748	525
UK Safeguard	13737	14617	000
UK Small Cos	7827	8370	049X
US Index	2254	2375	400
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trust Managers			
AXA Equity & Law Hse, Corporation St,			
Coventry CV1 1GD			
Tel: 01203 553231			
Balanced Acc	7076	7527	254
Balanced Inc	6472	6885	254
Brit Excel	11130	11830	236
BritishFndmtlsAcc	14100	14990	464
BritishFndmtlsInc	9048	9619	464
Europe	43070	45840	062
Glts/Fxd Int Acc	22920	24220	566
Glts/Fxd Int Inc	9548	10080	566
Global Opps	10740	11420	091
High Inc Acc	102300	109000	466
High Inc Inc	52820	55970	466
Japan	3427	3645	000
North America	41430	44070	000
Pacific Basin	27880	29760	180
UK Gwth Acc	56960	58889	252
UK Gwth Inc	35280	37490	252
Barclays Funds Limited			
11 Broadway, Stratford, London, E15 4BJ			
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4000			
Balanced Trusts			
Income Funds			
Cash	10090	10090	650
Cash Acc	13090	13090	650
Income Builder	7886	8398	471
International Income	8178	8698	148
Balanced Funds			
100	8150	8500	211
[illegible]mpt	10120	10770	292X
General	38940	41300	181
Property	26340	28280	582X
Jubilee	22240	28970	171
Growth Funds UK			
Capital	17369	18470	179
FTSE 100	12480	13250	184X
Growth Acc	54250	57730	158
Smlr Cos Acc	7237	7719	226
Smlr Cos Inc	6099	6408	226
Growth Funds - Overseas			
America	22660	23950	003X
AmericanRecvryAcc	15720	16680	000
Asian Acc	8847	10430	000
Japan Inc	3795	10280	000
Japan Spec Sits	4469	4728	000
Worldwide	20720	22050	099
Barclays Investment Portfolios (1208)F			
High Income Inc	5094	5089	700
Managed Income	4851	5014	710
Managed Gth&Inc	4587	4880	450
Managed Growth	4500	4806	050
Barclays Global Investors Funds			
PO Box 14828 London E15 4UG			
Brokerline: 0800 731 2443			
Income Funds			
Distribution	12330	12370	538X
Equity Income	16400	17500	444
Gilt & Fixed Int	6198	6417	716X
International Fixed Int	9892	10230	520
InternationalFixedIntAcc	12550	12870	520
Growth Funds - UK			
UK Growth	49780	52960	189
UK Growth Acc	49780	52960	188
Gwth & Inc Acc	109100	116600	177
Gwth & Inc Inc	50440	53690	177X
Growth Funds - Overseas			
European Growth	22820	24260	073
European Gwth Acc	25100	26560	073
Far Eastern Growth	11940	12710	123
Far Eastern Gwth Acc	20170	21450	123
Baring Fund Managers Ltd			
PO Box 831, 199 Bishopsgate,			
London EC2M 3YS			
Enq: 0171 782 8450, Dealing: 0171 214 1004			
American Growth	17590	18570	000X
American Smlr Cos	16660	17860	000X
Eastern	17390	18680	030X
Emerg Mkts Ex..	7024	7200	050X
Equity Income	12000	12790	400X
European Growth	46630	49530	080X
European Select	41610	44410	080X
Exempt	11530	11800	280X
Exempt Fixed Int	11900	12010	650X
German Growth	10270	10880	050X
Global Bond	7326	7704	480X
Global Growth	16380	17370	040X
Income Plus	5388	5403	760X
Japan Growth	12000	12700	000X
Japan Sunrise	8209	8885	000X
Korea	2565	2802	000X
Portfolio Acc	32390	34530	200X
Portfolio Inc	16780	17880	200X
Select Managers	9189	9815	100X
UK Growth	12740	13800	180X
UK Growth & Inc	7928	7997	420X
UK Smlr Cos	11880	12640	190X
Charity Fund			
OverseasGwthExempt	7147	7221	000X
Friends Provident Unit Trust Managers Ltd			
United Kingdom Hse, Castle St,			
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 3SH			
Enq: 01722 715834, Dealing: 01722 715835			
FP Managed Portfolio Service			
CapitalGwth	14070	14980	058
CapGwthIncAcc	13840	14820	267
CapGwthIncInc	12870	13690	267
OpenCapGwth	13950	14840	013
OpenCapGwthInc	13350	14200	359
OpnCapGthIncAcc	14660	15590	359
FP Unit Trusts			
Amer Smlr Cos	21960	23420	000
American	7802	8294	000
American Acc	8743	9295	000
Asian Gwth	17100	18240	000
Asian Gwth Acc	17850	19040	000
Australian	40480	43170	000
Australian Acc	46130	49200	000
Equity Acc	122200	130300	236
Equity Dist	53570	57140	200
EthicUKEqExAcc	13480	12540	290
EthicUKEqExInc	12190	12240	290
Euro Gwth	36120	38520	000
Eurpn Gwth Acc	36570	42200	000
Income	6826	7281	439
Income Acc	25370	27060	439
InstlUKSmCosAcc	12280	12950	154
InstlUKSmCosInc	11980	12540	154
Intl Bond	5649	5977	391
Intl Bond Acc	16110	17040	391
Intl Gwth	4170	4448	004
Intl Gwth Acc	6145	6554	004
JpneseSmCosAcc	18490	17580	000
Monthly Dstrb	8447	9010	483
Monthly Dstrb Acc	16150	17220	483
Pacific Basin Acc	16910	18030	020
SterlingDepositInc	10090	10090	615
SterlingDepositAcc	12190	12190	615
Stwrdshp	47460	50620	144
Stwrdshp Acc	60770	64820	144
Stwrdshp Inc	7803	8323	523
Stwrdshp Inc Acc	11180	12130	523
Stwrdshp N Am	15580	18610	000
Stwrdshp N Am Acc	16760	17870	000
Tokyo Acc	6563	7000	000
Tokyo Inc	6498	6931	000
UK Focus	5056	5395	151
UK Focus Acc	6324	6745	151
UK Growth Acc	49180	52450	159
UK Growth Inc	23890	25480	159
For Govett (John) Unit Management Ltd			
please see under AIB Govett Unit Trusts			
HSBC Unit Trust Management Ltd			
6 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7QP			
Advisers: 0800 181890			
Investors: 0800 289505			
Dealing: 0171 955 5055			
Benton	11500	12230	114X
Elm	9693	10330	244X
Benton Fund initial charge 5 per cent			
Elm Growth initial charge 5.25 per cent			
Legal & General (UT Managers) Ltd			
Knox Court, 10 Fitzalan Place			
Cardiff CF2 1TL			
Enq: 01222 448412, Dealing: 01222 483512			
http:www.legal-and-general.co.uk			
Cash	6245	6245	650X
Equity Acc	148800	148800	208X
Equity Dist	70370	70370	208X
Equity Income	12130	12130	450X
European	17190	17190	023X
European Index	10940	10940	115X
Far Eastern	16210	16210	000X
Fixed Interest	5860	5860	734X
Gilt	9715	9715	604X
Global Growth	8154	8154	031
Intl Bond	4538	4826	506X
Japanese	5343	5343	000X
Japanese Index	2653	2653	000X
North American	28030	28030	000X
Pacific Growth	7894	7894	087X
UK Index	9146	9146	266
UK Index Acc	9259	9259	266X
UK Recovery	13180	13180	157X
UK Small Cos	17810	17810	111
UK StockmrktAcc	8988	8988	073
UK Tactical	8087	8087	533X
US Index	10960	10960	077X
Worldwide	10740	10740	107X
Worldwide Acc	10820	10820	107X
Lloyds Bank Unit Trust Managers Ltd			
Mountbatten House, Chatham,			



Fund	Sell	Buy	Yld
Kent, ME4 4JF			
Tel: 01634 836000, Dealing: 01634 834313			
Balanced	48600	51710	167
Balanced Acc	118200	125800	187
ContEuropeGr	9368	9970	000
ContEuropeGrAcc	10140	10680	000
Extra Income	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Extra Income Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FTSE 100	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FTSE 100 Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
German Gwth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Inc Portfolio Acc	77219	82140	395
Income	67070	71360	301
Income Acc	197300	209900	301
Japan Gwth	7509	7989	000
Japan Gwth Acc	7536	8018	000
Master Trust	7478	7952	121
Master Trust Acc	8782	9343	121
Millennium	11350	12090	203
N Amer & Gen Acc	35390	37650	000
N Amer & Gen Inc	30580	32540	000
[illegible]	23310	24800	000
[illegible]	22840	24300	000
Pacific Basin	16410	17460	070
Pacific Basin Acc	17490	18610	070
[illegible]	28400	30240	295
Security First	11430	12000	148
Smlr Cos Acc	54450	57320	203X
[illegible]	76460	80490	203
UK Equity Growth	19630	20890	238
UK Equity Inc	15630	16630	363
UK Growth	12620	13430	171
UK Growth Acc	16110	17140	171
Wrldwde Gwth	38450	40910	051X
Wrldwde Gwth Acc	56920	60560	051
Hill Samuel Exempt Umbrella Trust			
(formerly Lloyds)			
European Acc	26360	27970	142X
Japan Acc	[illegible]	9411	000X
NorthAmericanAcc	31060	32310	054X
Pacific Acc	4771	5002	247X
UK Equity Acc	36310	38040	247
UK SmllrCosAcc	16630	17680	213
Newton Fund Managers Ltd			
2 Festival Square, Edinburgh EH3 9SU			
Clients 0800 614330, Broker 0500 660000,			
Dealing, 0500 440000			
internet: information@newton.co.uk			
American GwthAcc	[illegible]	6734	000
AmericanGwthInc	6281	6681	000
[illegible]	11313	12035	225
Cash	5022	5022	654
Cash Acc	7283	7283	654
Distribution	12257	13039	245
European	7129	7584	000
[illegible]	12502	13087	163
General	25249	26860	164
Growth Acc	16800	17872	166
Growth Inc	16066	17091	166
Higher Inc	4042	4299	501
Higher Inc Acc	5123	5450	501
Income	32818	34912	295
[illegible]	[illegible]	13641	502
Intl Growth	4245	4515	000
[illegible]	16545	17234	144X
Japan	[illegible]	2538	000
Oriental	10934	11631	019
Oriental Acc	11336	12052	019
Northern Rock Unit Trusts Ltd			
Bulman House, Regent Centre, Gosforth			
Newcastle Upon Tyne NE3 3NG			
Tel 0191 285 2555			
[illegible]	5535	5557	553
UK Growth	13290	14060	253
Prudential Unit Trusts Ltd			
51-69 Ilford Hill, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3DL			
IFA Dealing: 0345 835505			
Client Dealing: 0345 835500			
[illegible]	10109	10159	624X
[illegible]	12483	12544	624
Distribution	11594	12014	476X
Distribution Acc	13646	14141	476
Equity	103117	109699	173X
Equity Income	10108	10751	393X
European	32820	34030	056
Global Gwth	11325	12048	159
High Income	10434	11100	460
Intl Gwth	23665	24112	100
Intl Sm Cos	9398	9988	096
Japanese	12328	12775	000
Managed	4737	4971	201
Managed Inc	5040	5209	728
Nth Amer	30352	31409	080X
Pacific Mkts	8095	8388	170
Premier Inc	5006	5210	557X
Small Cos	11559	12297	157X
Spec Sits	14487	15412	173
UK Growth	17484	18600	172
Save & Prosper Securities Ltd			
16-22 Western Rd, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB			
Clients: 0800 829 100			
Brokerline: 0800 727 770			
Amer Smlr Cos	17390	18500	000
Cash	14290	14290	653
China Dragon	5951	6331	034
Commodity	11040	11740	000
Emerging Markets	3516	3740	053
European Gwth	28900	30740	000X
EuropeanSmlrCos	7583	8078	000X
Extra Income	6523	6760	518X
Far Eastern Gwth	7189	7648	000
FarEasternSmCos	3506	3730	092
Financial Secs	40230	42800	135X
Gold&Exploration	3538	3762	000
Growth	52730	52990	152
High Income	5262	5052	628X
Intl Bond	15430	16310	491
ITU	25290	26900	079
Japan Growth	11780	12490	000
JapanSmallerCos	9652	10230	000
Korea	1547	1646	000X
Latin America	4799	5020	027
Masterfund	7010	7045	097X
New Europe	4756	(Mid)	000
PremierEquityGwth	20310	21630	119
PremierEquityInc	43340	46110	391X
SE Asia	3146	3347	034
Southern Africa	4581	4873	117
UK & Overseas	22190	23610	072
UK Equity Inc	36280	38600	279
UK Sm Cos	6441	6852	092
US Gwth	28000	29790	000
Scottish Amicable Ltd			
PO Box 14962 Craigforth Stirling, FK9 4ZD			
01786 448844			
***Pension Funds**			
96% Safeguard Pens	10980	(Mid)	000
100% Safeguard Pens	10310	(Mid)	000
Wealth Presvtn Cap	10850	(Mid)	000
Wealth Presvtn Inc	7010	(Mid)	000
Singer & Friedlander Inv Funds Ltd			
21 New Street, London EC2M 4HR			
Tel: 0171 867 8777, Dealing: 0171 626 6226			
***SIB Recognised Dublin OEIC Funds**			
AmericanGrowth	16850	(Mid)	000
Aztec	7822	(Mid)	000
Corporate Income	10172	(Mid)	000
Deutschmark Reserve	16650	(Mid)	000
European Growth	18972	(Mid)	000
Football Fund	6328	(Mid)	000
Global Bond	6742	(Mid)	000
Investment Trust	11601	(Mid)	000
Reserve Roll Up	10092	(Mid)	000
Samurai	4188	(Mid)	000
Sterling Reserve	10193	(Mid)	000
Tai Pan	7806	(Mid)	000
UK Emerg Leaders	9581	(Mid)	000
UK Equity Income	10438	(Mid)	000
UK Growth	11886	(Mid)	000
Singer & Friedlander Unit Managers Ltd			
Continental	10790	11380	100X
GlobalGrowthPEP	8866	9363	100X
InvestmtTrustPfolio	6060	6446	220X
Managed Ex	144583	153321	220X
Preferred Income	10870	11560	610X
Smaller Cos	28080	29870	090X
Standard Life Unit Trusts			
30 Lothian Rd, Edinburgh EH1 2DH			
Tel: 0800 33 33 53			
GlobalAdvantage	5010	5036	111
GlobalAdvantageAcc	5502	5530	111
IncomeAdvantageAcc	5051	5077	390
IncomeAdvantageInc	4154	4175	390X
Managed Acc	6925	7341	169
Premier Inc Acc	6025	6240	647
Premier Inc Inc	5246	5430	647X
UKEqHighInc	4901	5196	373
UKEqHighIncAcc	6772	7179	373
UKEquityGthAcc	11830	12540	150
Virgin Direct			
Discovery House, Whiting Road, Norwich			
Tel: 0345 95 95 95			
Email: mail@virgin-direct.co.uk			
Pen Growth Acc	11896	11896	000
Pen Inc Protector	11178	11178	000
PFS Income	11011	11011	625
PFS UKIndexTracking	15347	15347	237

Care is taken to ensure that the information provided by Bloomberg and Financial Express for the Independent is correct, but neither warrant, represent or guarantee the contents of the information, nor do they accept any responsibility for errors, inaccuracies, omissions, or any inconsistency herein.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS Bloomberg
www.bloomberg.com

Key
X - ex-dividend
Copies of the most recent managers reports and scheme particulars are available from fund managers free on request.
A more extensive list of unit trusts and managed funds is published on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

source: Bloomberg
www.bloomberg.com

Pleasure and pain as man returns to take on the machines

On Sunday at the Perpetual Indoor Rowing Championships in Reading, *Hugh Matheson*, who reached the singles sculls final for Britain at the Moscow Olympics, finished second in the 45-49 age-group. Here he describes the agonies and addictive ecstasies of his return to competition.

It was a marvellous experience to go back through the last two days' preparation before a real race. You forget how, for a week beforehand, the body produces a series of complaints about what you are going to do to it.

Last Wednesday, my knee ached when I practised, and it sent a couple of sharp lances up the central nervous system to make sure I'd got the message. The next day, my back was up to the same tricks: "You can't race like this, especially at your age. You could do permanent damage. No amount of pride is worth it. Ring them up and say you'll come, but just as a spectator."

At the same time any attempts at the speed work that I was supposed to be doing were pathetic. I couldn't even find a pace at which I could expect to keep up for the whole of the simulated 2,000 metre course.

So, knowing from distant memory how the body and brain were colluding to maximise the discomfort now so that it would feel so much better on the day, I trusted to hope and did as little as possible apart from a 15-minute practice on the rowing machine each day.

And yes, the aches eased miraculously throughout Saturday and a light paddle on the ergometer that evening ended with a brusque 500 metres of controlled ferocity which told me that I could achieve my target pace of 1min 35sec per 500 metres.

On Sunday morning I showed up at the huge sports hall in Reading early, and put in 20 minutes' warm-up just to get all the systems moving right. The body dredged up no real complaints. Several hours then passed in a now familiar haze – some nerves, some calmness, some concentration on the task ahead.

They are fun, those last couple of hours before you test yourself really hard. The tingle of nerves heightens all sensations. You hear, see, feel more clearly. Then after another little warm-up it is time, and you step over the little picket fence into the ring.

There are rows and rows of machines but mine is No 4 in the front rank, because I have predicted a time of 6min 35sec for the full 2000 metres equivalent. I find myself next to a man who is vaguely familiar, though his grey beard disguises his features. He introduces himself as Brendan Sullivan, a Boat Race contemporary of mine who I haven't seen since he dropped out of the National squad 25 years ago to concentrate on his medical studies. I hope he's now a genius consultant, because he missed out on a lot when the rest of us were winning medals.

Pulling power: Hugh Matheson gets into his stroke during the world indoor rowing championships Photograph: Peter Jay

The countdown is quick and remorseless, no time for a quick rethink or any adjustment to the equipment. I do have a moment to remember that as a coach I always say, before sending my crew to race, "Enjoy yourself." This is not a penance; it's supposed to be a pleasure. If you are not capable of enjoying the physical urge of racing you should drop out. So I whisper it again to myself. And I believe it.

"Ready... set... go." Expecting a different rhythm I move early, but gently. No false start is recorded and we're into it. It's like an auction, this. You decide a pace you can manage beforehand and stick to it. Others racing alongside tempt you via the best drug on the market, adrenalin, to go faster, do more. It feels ridiculously easy. To match my target 1min 36sec per 500 metre quarter, I drop the number of strokes per minute to a cruising 27, even lower after one minute.

The commentator, Chris Baillieu, an old friend, has me in the lead and the little box on the computerised monitor agrees, but shows the margin as only a few metres. I am certain half-way through that things don't feel too bad and that I should not do anything extravagant, just hold the lead at a narrow margin and save any spare juice for a final push.

In the last 500 metres, the commentary is fading and the rate of strokes per minute is rising, but there is no panic. I can finish like this and even put in a little flourish. Then the box says I've dropped to second place. Okay, put in a 10-stroke burn and get it back. Four strokes later my closest pursuer is three metres behind and there's only 300 metres to go. I stop watching anything but the remaining metres as they click away.

The rest of the world has gone quiet, except for the voice of Simon Larkin, who I coached as an under-23 international in the single sculls and is one of the few voices I could accept at this point in the race. He is at my shoulder quietly telling me, "You're in front, just keep it going". As we come down to the line I am concentrating utterly on the fluctuating margin of the lead, sometimes one metre, sometimes three. We are down to the last few metres and with Simon's urging I *think* I'm there. But as soon as we stop it is ash and not nectar. Silver, not gold. John Mottram, from the Cambridge Free Press Club, has nipped in front in the last few strokes and I am left cursing.

This is a new experience. In my previous competitive life I rarely lost a nip-and-tuck finish, and I'm astonished to have it happen now. So much for Mr Control. Didn't know when to throw caution to the wind and get stuck in, did he? Let a tougher, sharper racer take him on the line. I'm ashamed that one who has preached so often that, come what may, you race through the line, not up to it, should let himself down in this way.

The difference between winning and losing is also about how you feel the physical damage. This time it hurt. But you soon forget and start making plans to train for more than six weeks before the next competition and to set the target well ahead of this one. Already, less than an hour after the race, the blood is up. Damn it. I'm hooked again.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

San Francisco are fodder for Gannon

Rich Gannon passed for three touchdowns, including a pair to Andre Rison, as the Kansas City Chiefs pushed on to a 44-9 rout of San Francisco on Sunday, ending the 49ers' 11-game winning streak.

It was the worst regular season loss for San Francisco, already winners of the NFC Western Division title, since a 59-14 defeat at Dallas in 1980. San Francisco also suffered a 49-3 play-off defeat to the New York Giants in 1986.

"We played as well today as I think we can play," Marty Schottenheimer, the Chiefs' coach, said. "There's clearly not that kind of point differential between us. It was just one of those days. Things went our way."

"The wheels came off a bit and then it snowballed," Steve Mariucci, the 49ers coach, said. "We got frustrated."

Gannon, making his fourth start for the injured Elvis Grbac, completed 12-of-21 passes for 186 yards. He has led the Chiefs to consecutive victories over Denver, Seattle and San Francisco. Kansas City remained one game behind Denver, leaders of the AFC West.

Rison caught five passes for 117 yards, including touchdowns of six and 29 yards. Gannon also hit the rookie tight end Tony Gonzalez with a two-yard scoring pass. Marcus Allen scored on a three-yard run and connected with the tight end Ted Popson, a former 49er, on a one-yard touchdown in a 21-point second quarter for Kansas City.

Meanwhile, in San Diego, John Elway threw for 240 yards and three touchdowns and Terrell Davis ran for 178 and a score in his homecoming as the Denver Broncos became the first AFC team to earn a play-off place with a 38-28 victory over the Chargers.

Results and standings, Digest, page 31

PHILIPS
ECOTONE

Today we publish the latest results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. The player scores are for all League games played until Sunday 30 November. The league table includes all scores up to 23 November. The monthly winner will receive a pair of tickets to an England home international, while the overall winner gets a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e.: if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in *The Independent* and repeated the following Sunday in the *Independent on Sunday*.

HOW TO SCORE

- player scores 4
- clean sheet 4
- winning goal 1
- successful assist 3
- -1 yellow card
- -3 red card
- manager's team wins 3
- draw 1

INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

LEAGUE TABLE

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 23 NOVEMBER

POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	Miss Lisa Wild	Amoretto	553
2	Mr B Sarl	The Untouchables	551
2	Mr David Aston	Billy Boys 2nd II	551
4	Mr Chris King	Seeking Victory	549
4	Mr Phil Tufler	Pin 4 Ups	549
4	Mr David Evans	Boothen End Old Boys	549
4	Mr John Cox	Southville FC	549
8	Mr Martin Pawley	Roberts Rovers	548
9	Mr B Sarl	Simply The Best	547
10	Mr Archer	No Wright	545
11	Mr David Baker	Deja Vu	540
12	Mr Abdul Choudi	Nickles 9th II	538
12	Mr Stewart Scot	Unbeatable	538
14	Mr David Edmington	Edmo United	537
16	Mr Tony Brazier	Wow For Short	536
16	Mr Ian Boyle	Wembly Bundlers	535
16	Mr Stewart Scott	The Dream Team	535
16	Mr A Wingrove	Tony's Brace	535
16	Mr Chris Thomas	Scunthorpe Extras	535
16	Mr Tom Lyons	Diane's Demons	535
21	Mr J McCrossam	Washed Up Army	534
22	Mr D Depolt	Quick Start	532
22	Mr Brady	Look Lively	532
24	Mr P Green	Powis Rangers	531
24	Mr John Cox	Retro Rovers	531
26	Mr E Gromley	Celtic Warriors	530
25	Mr Killerby	The Killer Bees	530
25	Mr David Baker	Dead Beat	530
26	Mr David Boreham	Boreham United	530
29	Mr Ken Boyle	Clogston Rovers	529
29	Mr P Tuiser	Pin Ups 2	529
31	Mr Michael Rickard	Aller Lamberg	527
31	Mr J Salt	One Watt City	527
33	Mr Trevor Russ	Sammy's Soccer Scorchers	526
33	Mr David Aston	Billy's Boys	526
35	Mr J Crossam	Washed Up Army	524
35	Mr G Bell	Stunning Stunts	524
37	Mr A Cummingham	The Zebra	523
38	Mr Steven Mann	Rebecca Rovers	522
36	Mr David Aston	Billy Boys 3rd II	522
38	Mr W Barr	Brookes Rangers	522
41	Mr C Milne	Grimsby's Fish	521
41	Mr B Srai	Feather Boys I	521
41	Mr David Ackroyd	Jacks Lads	521

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 30 NOVEMBER

GOALKEEPERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	GV	VALUE (£m)
300	Seaman	ARS	1	39	4.0
303	Lukic	ARS	0	0	1.0
304	Manninger	ARS	0	0	3.0
305	Bosnich	AV	0	27	4.0
306	Oakes	AV	1	5	1.5
307	Watson	BAR	0	19	1.0
308	Leese	BAR	1	9	1.0
309	Flowers	BLA	1	32	5.2
330	Filan	BLA	0	12	1.5
333	Branagan	BOL	5	39	1.2
334	De Goey	CHE	10	48	1.0
335	Grodas	CHE	0	0	1.0
336	Ogrizovic	COV	1	36	2.2
337	Hedman	COV	0	0	1.0
338	Nash	CRY	0	0	1.0
339	Day	CRY	0	0	1.0
340	Poom	DER	1	28	1.2
343	Hoult	DER	0	0	1.6
344	Southall	EVE	2	24	3.0
345	Gerrard	EVE	0	4	1.5
346	Martyn	LEE	1	32	3.3
347	Beeney	LEE	0	0	1.2
348	Keller	LEI	4	39	2.5
349	Poole	LEI	0	0	1.5
350	James	LIV	5	35	3.5
353	Warner	LIV	0	0	1.0
354	Schmeichel	MAN	5	52	5.5
355	Van Der Gouw	MAN	0	0	1.2
356	Given	NEW	0	26	2.5
357	Hislop	NEW	1	2	2.5
358	Pressman	SHEF	1	30	3.0
359	Taylor	SOU	0	0	1.8
360	Beasant	SOU	0	0	1.0
363	Walker	TOT	6	36	3.4
364	Baardsen	TOT	0	0	1.0
365	Miklosko	WH	1	12	1.5
366	Sullivan	WIM	1	31	2.7

DEFENDERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	GV	VALUE (£m)
400	Dixon	ARS	0	26	2.5
403	Upson	ARS	0	0	2.0
404	Petit	ARS	1	39	4.2
405	Grimandi	ARS	0	22	2.7
406	Winterburn	ARS	1	47	2.5
407	Bould	ARS	0	26	2.5
408	Adams	ARS	0	34	4.5
409	Keown	ARS	1	2	4.5
430	Staunton	AV	1	30	3.0
433	Southgate	AV	0	27	5.2
434	Ehiogu	AV	1	39	3.0
435	Nelson	AV	1	33	1.2
436	Wright	AV	1	28	3.0
437	Scimeca	AV	1	20	2.2
438	Grayson	AV	0	26	2.2
439	Moses	BAR	-1	23	1.5
440	Appleby	BAR	0	14	2.0
443	Thompson	BAR	0	6	1.0
444	Krizan	BAR	0	11	1.0
445	Berg	MAN	5	40	3.4
446	Le Saux	CHE	5	41	5.0
447	Coleman	BLA	0	0	3.0
448	Hendry	BLA	0	36	4.4
449	Kenna	BLA	1	42	1.9
450	Henchoz	BLA	1	40	2.0
453	Valery	BLA	0	20	3.0
454	Anderson	BLA	0	4	2.5
455	Cox	BOL	0	6	2.5
456	Elliott	BOL	0	12	3.0
457	Fairclough	BOL	0	0	2.0
458	Taggart	BOL	0	19	2.5
459	Bergsson	BOL	5	37	1.5
461	Duberry	CHE	10	25	3.0
463	Petrescu	CHE	10	59	3.0
464	Lambourde	CHE	0	2	3.0
465	Leboeuf	CHE	5	42	5.0
466	Sinclair	CHE	9	38	2.5
467	Dash	COV	0	0	2.7
468	Shaw	COV	0	34	2.2
469	Burrows	COV	0	31	2.2
470	Haworth	COV	0	10	1.5
473	Edworthy	CRY	8	29	1.5
474	Gordon	CRY	6	37	2.0
475	Muscat	CRY	0	14	1.0
476	Tuttle	CRY	0	11	2.0
477	Linighan	CRY	6	31	2.0
478	Roberts	CRY	6	32	3.0
479	Hreidarsson	CRY	6	25	1.0
481	Stimac	DER	0	14	3.3
483	C Powell	DER	1	35	1.8
484	Laursen	DER	0	26	1.5
485	Eranio	DER	1	33	2.5
486	Phelan	EVE	2	10	1.9
487	Short	EVE	1	20	3.0
488	Watson	EVE	0	25	2.7
489	Unsworth	WH	1	14	3.0
490	Hinchcliffe	EVE	0	20	3.5
493	Bilic	EVE	-2	5	4.0
494	Kelly	LEE	1	44	3.6
495	Wetherall	LEE	1	37	2.5
496	Molenaar	LEE	0	21	2.5
497	Dorigo	LEE	0	0	1.2
498	Robertson	LEE	0	32	2.5
499	Walsh	LEI	5	45	2.2
500	Whitlow	BOL	5	21	1.2
503	Elliott	LEI	9	68	1.2
504	Watts	LEI	0	0	1.6
505	Wright	LIV	0	10	3.0
506	Ruddock	LIV	0	2	3.0
507	Harkness	LIV	0	10	1.2
508	Kvarme	LIV	5	30	2.5
509	Bjornebye	LIV	7	44	2.5
530	Matteo	LIV	4	16	3.0
533	McAteer	LIV	5	11	3.7
534	G Neville	MAN	5	51	4.2
535	P Neville	MAN	5	34	4.2
536	Irwin	MAN	0	33	2.5
537	Pallister	MAN	5	50	3.0
538	May	MAN	0	0	3.5
539	Johnsen	MAN	0	16	3.5
540	Silva	MAN	0	0	3.5
543	Albert	NEW	0	21	4.1
544	Howey	NEW	0	11	3.7
545	Peacock	NEW	0	20	3.0
546	Barton	NEW	0	28	3.3
547	Beresford	NEW	0	38	2.2
548	Blondeau	SHEF	0	8	2.2
549	Nolan	SHEF	1	37	1.9
550	Atherton	SHEF	5	25	1.9
553	Walker	SHEF	1	32	2.5
554	Stefanovic	SHEF	0	3	1.6
555	Newsome	SHEF	4	30	1.5
556	Monkou	SOU	1	30	1.7
557	Dodd	SOU	4	33	2.5
558	Benali	SOU	1	24	1.5
559	Van Gobbel	SOU	0	1	1.5
560	Lundekvam	SOU	1	17	1.2
563	Scales	TOT	5	20	3.4
564	Campbell	TOT	6	30	4.0
565	Calderwood	TOT	5	19	2.9
566	Austin	TOT	0	0	2.2
567	Edinburgh	TOT	1	18	1.6
568	Carr	TOT	6	34	1.2
569	Mabbutt	TOT	0	17	1.5
570	Dicks	WH	0	0	3.5
573	Rieper	WH	0	12	2.7
574	Hall	WH	0	0	3.0
575	Potts	WH	1	10	1.5
576	Ferdinad	WH	1	16	2.5
577	Impey	WH	0	4	2.2
578	Turner	WH	0	0	2.0
579	Perry	WIM	0	30	4.0
580	Cunningham	WIM	1	28	1.5
583	Thatcher	WIM	1	15	2.0
584	McAllister	WIM	0	1	1.5
585	Kimble	WIM	0	17	1.5

MIDFIELDERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	GV	VALUE (£m)
600	Platt	ARS	1	17	2.5
603	Parlour	ARS	0	22	2.4
604	Pereira	ARS	0	0	2.7
605	Vieira	ARS	0	20	4.5
606	Overmars	ARS	1	32	6.0
607	Mendez Rodriguez	ARS	0	1	2.0
608	Taylor	AV	0	21	1.9
609	Townsend	AV	0	5	3.2
630	Draper	AV	1	23	4.1
633	Marcelle	BAR	0	2	2.0
634	Bullock	BAR	1	5	1.2
635	Redfearn	BAR	1	35	1.5
636	Eaden	BAR	1	11	1.2
637	Tinkler	BAR	0	16	1.0
638	Dunn	BLA	0	0	3.0
639	Wilcox	BLA	1	17	3.0
640	McKinlay	BLA	1	7	2.2
643	Sherwood	BLA	1	21	3.4
644	Flitcroft	BLA	1	9	3.0
645	Frandsen	BOL	1	11	1.5
646	Thompson	BOL	1	19	2.8
647	Pollock	BOL	1	12	1.2
648	Sellars	BOL	1	19	1.5
649	Gullit	CHE	0	0	4.4
650	Di Matteo	CHE	4	20	5.0
653	Wise	CHE	5	21	3.7
654	Newton	CHE	0	4	2.4
655	P Hughes	CHE	0	3	1.0
656	Babayaro	CHE	2	6	3.0
657	Telfer	COV	1	16	1.8
658	Richardson	SOU	1	13	2.1
659	McAllister	COV	1	16	3.0
660	Salako	COV	0	13	2.4
663	Johansen	COV	0	0	2.0
664	Simpson	DER	0	1	1.2
665	Asanovic	DER	0	9	3.0
666	D Powell	DER	-1	1	1.2
667	Van Der Laan	DER	0	0	1.6
668	Dailly	DER	1	10	1.2
669	Hunt	DER	0	9	2.0
670	Parkinson	EVE	0	0	1.8
673	Grant	EVE	0	2	2.2
674	Farrelly	EVE	2	4	2.0
675	Stuart	EVE	0	26	2.5
676	Speed	EVE	2	31	2.7
677	Bowyer	LEE	1	12	3.0
678	Wallace	LEE	8	59	1.8
679	Sharpe	LEE	0	11	3.5
680	Ribeiro	LEE	4	34	1.5
683	Haaland	LEE	4	17	2.5
684	Parker	LEI	0	9	2.5
685	Taylor	LEI	0	0	1.6
686	Izzet	LEI	1	23	2.1
687	Lennon	LEI	1	15	3.2
688	Guppy	LEI	1	32	1.7
689	Barnes	NEW	1	33	3.0
690	Redknapp	LIV	1	9	5.2
693	McManaman	LIV	6	48	5.9
694	Thomas	LIV	0	12	3.0
695	Leonhardsen	LIV	1	16	4.0
696	Giggs	MAN	1	35	7.4
697	Beckham	MAN	1	43	7.0
698	Keane	MAN	0	14	7.0
699	Butt	MAN	0	24	7.0
700	Poborski	MAN	0	11	3.5
703	Lee	NEW	-1	16	3.6
704	Batty	NEW	0	5	3.8
705	Gillespie	NEW	1	18	2.5
706	Beardsley	BOL	0	17	2.0
707	Ketsbaia	NEW	8	19	2.0
708	Blinker	SHEF	0	0	2.5
709	Hyde	SHEF	0	6	1.8
730	Whittingham	SHEF	1	34	1.7
733	Carbone	SHEF	0	42	3.0
734	Magilton	SHEF	1	15	2.4
735	Slater	SOU	0	2	1.5
736	Oakley	SOU	1	11	1.2
737	Anderton	TOT	1	2	6.0
738	Fox	TOT	4	23	3.5
739	Howells	TOT	0	10	3.2
740	Ginola	TOT	6	27	3.5
743	Sinton	TOT	2	14	3.0
744	Nielsen	TOT	1	3	2.5
745	Williamson	EVE	2	11	2.0
746	Mi Hughes	WIM	1	13	2.0
747	Moncur	WH	0	8	2.5
748	Bishop	WH	0	2	2.5
749	Berkovic	WH	1	38	2.5
750	Lomas	WH	1	11	3.0
753	Jones	WIM	1	13	2.8
754	Earle	WIM	0	18	3.1
755	Ardley	WIM	1	27	2.0
756	Fear	WIM	0	0	2.0
757	C Hughes	WIM	1	14	2.0

STRIKERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	GV	VALUE (£m)
800	Bergkamp	ARS	1	63	7.5
803	Wright	ARS	1	54	7.2
804	Boa Morte Pereira	ARS	0	0	2.0
805	Yorke	AV	5	34	6.7
806	Joachim	AV	0	11	2.4
807	Collymore	AV	1	24	8.1
808	Wilkinson	BAR	0	6	1.2
809	Hendrie	BAR	0	6	1.5
830	Hristov	BAR	0	8	1.5
833	Sutton	BLA	-3	54	4.5
834	Gallacher	BLA	0	54	3.0
835	Dahlin	BLA	0	13	4.0
836	McGinlay	BOL	0	3	2.2
837	Blake	BOL	6	40	2.7
838	Zola	CHE	18	44	9.0
839	Vialli	CHE	1	26	3.5
840	Ma Hughes	CHE	4	28	4.4
843	Tore Andre Flo	CHE	0	16	3.0
844	Dublin	COV	1	49	3.5
845	Whelan	COV	0	0	3.0
846	Huckerby	COV	1	25	3.5
847	Solvedt	COV	0	14	1.5
848	Lightbourne	COV	0	0	1.5
849	Dyer	CRY	2	21	2.0
850	Freedman	CRY	0	2	2.0
853	Ndah	CRY	0	3	1.0
854	Shipperley	CRY	11	24	2.0
855	Ward	BAR	5	23	2.5
856	Sturridge	DER	0	25	5.0
857	Wanchope	DER	1	35	3.0
858	Ferguson	EVE	0	22	6.5
859	Barmby	EVE	2	12	4.5
860	Deane	LEE	0	0	3.0
863	Lilley	LEE	8	8	1.5
864	Hasselbaink	LEE	1	29	3.0
865	Claridge	LEI	0	7	3.5
866	Heskey	LEI	0	29	5.5
867	Fowler	LIV	0	30	9.5
868	Berger	LIV	0	20	4.0
869	Owen	LIV	0	28	2.5
870	Scholes	MAN	0	31	6.0
873	Cole	MAN	1	49	6.2
874	Solskjaer	MAN	9	37	7.0
875	Sheringham	MAN	7	49	5.0
876	Nevland	MAN	0	0	2.0
877	Shearer	NEW	0	0	10.0
878	Asprilla	NEW	0	15	7.4
879	Ferdinand	NEW	2	25	5.0
880	Tomasson	NEW	6	21	4.0
883	Gudjonsson	NEW	0	0	2.0
884	Humphreys	SHEF	0	2	2.5
885	Booth	SHEF	1	25	3.5
886	Hirst	SOU	5	34	3.5
887	Le Tissier	SOU	4	19	7.0
888	Evans	SOU	0	6	1.5
889	Ostenstad	SOU	0	9	3.2
890	Armstrong	TOT	0	13	5.9
893	Iversen	TOT	1	6	4.0
894	Hartson	WH	9	57	5.0
895	Kitson	WH	0	9	3.5
896	Holdsworth	BOL	1	12	3.5
897	Ekoku	WIM	0	26	4.0
898	Gayle	WIM	1	16	4.0
899	Euell	WIM	0	7	1.5

MANAGERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	GV	VALUE (£m)
900	Wenger	ARS	0	27	7.5
903	Little	AV	0	18	5.0
904	Wilson	BAR	0	13	2.0
905	Hodgson	BLA	0	30	5.0
906	Todd	BOL	3	16	2.5
907	Gullitt	CHE	6	31	4.5
908	Strachan	COV	0	17	3.0
909	Coppell	CRY	3	19	2.0
930	Smith	DER	0	23	2.0
933	Kendall	EVE	0	12	2.5
934	Graham	LEE	3	29	3.5
935	O'Neill	LEI	3	26	4.5
936	Evans	LIV	3	34	7.0
937	Ferguson	MAN	3	34	9.0
938	Dalglish	NEW	3	24	7.0
939	Pleat*	SHEF	0	9	4.0
940	Jones	SOU	0	16	2.5
943	Francis*	TOT	0	13	4.5
944	Redknapp	WH	3	19	3.3
945	Kinnear	WIM	0	19	4.5

*currently out of management

If you would like to know more about Philips' range of lighting products please call 0181- 606 1966. Terms and conditions as previously published. Supported by Philips Ecotone . The Energy Saver Lightbulbs.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

San Francisco … fodder

… Gannon

… Gannon passed for three touchdowns, including a pair to … Rison, as the Kansas City … Chiefs pushed on to a 44-9 rout of San Francisco on Sunday, ending the 49ers' 11-game winning streak.

… was the worst regular season loss for San Francisco … winners of the NFC … Western Division title, since … defeat at Dallas in 1980 … Francisco also suffered … play-off defeat to the … Giants in 1986.

"We played as well today as … think we can play," Marty … Schottenheimer, the Chiefs' coach, said. "There's clearly no … kind of point differential between us. It was just one of those … Things went our way." … The wheels came off … then it snowballed." Steve Mariucci, the 49ers coach, said: "… got frustrated."

… Gannon, making his fourth start for the injured Elvis Grbac, completed 12-of-21 passes for … yards. He has led the Chiefs to … consecutive victories over … Denver, Seattle and San Francisco. Kansas City remained … game behind Denver, leaders of the AFC West.

… Rison caught five passes for … yards, including touchdowns … and 29 yards. Gannon also … the rookie tight end Tony Gonzalez with a two-yard score … Marcus Allen scored … three-yard run and … with the tight end … on a former 49er … touchdown … 21-point … third quarter for Kansas City …

… Elway threw for 240 yards … three touchdowns and … Davis … for 178 and … his … becoming … Broncos … became the … AFC … a place … with … the Chargers.

Results and standings, Digest, page 3

Punters betrayed by Labour's empty promises

The National Association for the Protection of Punters (NAPP) is no more, and Britain's punters are left without a voice. *Greg Wood* on the empty promises which betrayed the cause of protection for betting's consumers.

A great many powerful people were in a very good mood last Friday evening. After six years of scratching frantically at the itch that was NAPP, it had suddenly gone away all by itself. Normal service had been restored at last, and the punters of Britain could again be squeezed dry without anyone raising so much as a whimper. In dozens of boardrooms, it was trebles all round.

There are those who claim that punters are simply not a very clubbable bunch of people. It's nonsense, of course. OFGAS, OFWAT and – somewhat ironically – OFLOT look after the collective interests of consumers of gas, water and the Lottery. But until the National Association for the Protection of Punters came along, it was easy for the administrators whose fat salaries are paid – via the Levy – out of backers' pockets to treat their benefactors like a cashpoint machine which didn't bother to keep count.

NAPP itself was composed of people who had little in common. But they had all taken a long look at the amount of money which punters put into the racing system (not to mention the Exchequer), and then another at the contempt with which they are treated, and decided – this is wrong.

For years they existed on nothing but subscriptions (it was just £10 a year), and even then would cheerfully take up cases on behalf of people who had not joined NAPP beforehand, and did not do so afterwards. At the same time, those arranged on the other side of the battlefield could call on almost unlimited resources. Worst of all, most of it was, originally, betting money. They were, in effect, under friendly fire.

The biggest villain in this respect was not BOLA, which, after all is paid to push the interests of the biggest off-course bookies, but the Levy Board. The Board exists for no other reason than to distribute money – a little over £50 million annually – collected from punters via the tax on off-course bets.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: French Holly (Newcastle 12.20)
NB: Grey Shot (Newcastle 12.50)

They spend £2 million just on administrating themselves. They dish out £300,000 a year to compensate racecourses which have been forced to abandon meetings (normal businesses, you might imagine, would take out insurance against the weather), and an astonishing £163,000 to point-to-point racing, which do not generate a single penny of Levy. And yet, when NAPP asked for £250,000 to employ up to five full-time staff, fighting for and defending the sort of rights which other consumers would take for granted, the Board treated them with contempt.

So long as the money keeps rolling in, they do not seem to care that no worthwhile system exists for resolving betting disputes, that magistrates hand out betting licences like confetti, or that dodgy bookies (Front Line and Bowmans in the last couple of years alone) can go bust owing hundreds of thousands of pounds to punters who, unlike tourists stranded by a collapsed holiday form, have no hope of compensation.

Seven months ago, the Board's attitude was all too predictable. NAPP were troublemakers, revolting peasants who made life uncomfortable for their lords and masters as they practised the noble art of sticking their noses in the trough.

Hang on in there, though, the campaigners were told by various Labour Party contacts. After the election, things will be different. It was, like so many others, an empty promise. Last Thursday, George Howarth, the Home Office minister, made it perfectly clear to a NAPP delegation that, if their work was to continue, it would do so unfunded.

"He didn't want to know," Michael Singer, NAPP's chairman, says. "We made it clear that once we walked out, we would be curtailing the operation, but he just didn't care." So, when next you venture into the unregulated world that is British betting, remember that you do so without consumer protection.

Pray that your bookie does not go under, or discover an obscure rule which turns your bet from a winner into a loser, for you will complain alone, and no-one will listen.

Singer believes it "a national scandal that the Government collects £1.4 billion a year from gambling but not a penny of it goes back to protect the people providing it." Anyone who agrees should direct their comments to George Howarth at the House of Commons.

Newton Abbot off due to waterlogging

Prolonged rain in the West Country has caused today's meeting at Newton Abbot to be abandoned owing to waterlogging. Clerk of the course Mike Trickey explained: "The track was raceable yesterday but we got another 0.6 inches of rain."

David Nicholson has declared Viking Flagship and Mulligan for Saturday's Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown.

Tingle Creek acceptors: Arctic Kinsman (N Twiston-Davies), Ask Tom (T Tate), Celibate (C Mann), Indian Jockey (M Pipe), Klairon Davis (A Moore Irl), Mulligan (D Nicholson), On So Risky (D Elsworth), Or Royal (M Pipe), Viking Flagship (D Nicholson).

Cashmans bet: 5-2 Klairon Davis, 4-1 Mulligan, Viking Flagship, 9-2 Ask Tom, 11-2 Or Royal, 14-1 Arctic Kinsman, 16-1 Celibate, 50-1 Indian Jockey, On So Risky.

RACING'S FUTURES MARKET

After his victory over **Barton Bank** in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury on Saturday, **Suny Bay** is a top-priced 7-1 with Ladbrokes and the Tote for the Cheltenham Gold Cup. **Sanmartino**, who beat **I'm Supposin** by 13 lengths in the Gerry Feilden Hurdle is 14-1 with Hills for the Champion Hurdle.

1998 Triumph Hurdle (2m 1f)

Horse (Trainer)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Tote
The French Furze (M Pipe)	12-1	14-1	12-1	12-1
Rainwatch (M Pipe)	20-1	20-1	14-1	20-1
Real Estate (D Nicholson)	20-1	20-1	14-1	14-1
Vent D'Aout (M Pipe)	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Rainbow Frontier (A P O'Brien/Ir)	25-1	20-1	20-1	14-1
Supply And Demand (G L Moore)	25-1	20-1	20-1	25-1

Each-way a quarter the odds, places, 1, 2, 3 (Cheltenham, Thursday, 19 March)

2m William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown on Saturday (Best prices in bold)
William Hill: 6-1 Grimes, 7-1 Potters Gale, 7-1 Stormytairweather, 10-1 Alabang, 10-1 Doctoor, 10-1 Princeful, 11-1 Potentate, 12-1 Chai-Yo, 14-1 Carlito Brigante, 14-1 Ela Agapi Mou, 14-1 Kerawi, 14-1 Nahrawali, 16-1 Globe Runner, 20-1 Barna Boy, 20-1 Bellator, 20-1 Forestal, 20-1 Lady Daisy, 20-1 Major Jamie, 20-1 Silver Groom, 25-1 New Inn, 33-1 Cool Gunner, 33-1 Kinnecash, 33-1 Non Vintage, 33-1 Punkah, 40-1 Greenback, 50-1 Danegold, 66-1 Nipper Red.
Ladbrokes: 5-1 Grimes, 6-1 Stormytairweather, 8-1 Doctoor, 8-1 Potter's Gale, 10-1 Chai-Yo, 10-1 Princeful, 12-1 Barna Boy, 12-1 Nahrawali, 12-1 Potentate, 14-1 Alabang, 14-1 Carlito Brigante, 14-1 Ela Agapi Mou, 14-1 Globe Runner, 14-1 Kerawi, 20-1 Bellator, 20-1 Forestal, 20-1 Lady Daisy, 25-1 Cool Gunner, 25-1 Kinnecash, 25-1 Major Jamie, 25-1 New Inn, 25-1 Silver Groom, 33-1 Punkah, 40-1 Danegold, 40-1 Greenback, 50-1 Non Vintage, 66-1 Nipper Red.
Each-way ¼ the odds, places, 1, 2, 3, 4

– Ian Davies

1998 Champion Hurdle (2m 110yds)

Horse (Trainer)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Tote
Shadow Leader (C Egerton)	6-1	5-1	6-1	5-1
Istabraq (A P O'Brien/Ir)	6-1	6-1	5-1	5-1
Make A Stand (M Pipe)	7-1	8-1	7-1	7-1
Sanmartino (D Nicholson)	12-1	14-1	10-1	12-1
Zoralaska (D Nicholson)	16-1	14-1	16-1	16-1
Collier Bay (J Old)	16-1	20-1	14-1	16-1
Grimes (C Roche/Ir)	20-1	16-1	14-1	16-1
I'm Supposin (R Rowe)	20-1	25-1	25-1	16-1
Marello (Mrs M Reveley)	25-1	25-1	25-1	16-1
Pridwell (M Pipe)	25-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Jyush (J Old)	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
Dato Star (J M Jefferson)	16-1	33-1	33-1	25-1
Space Trucker (Mrs J Harrington)	33-1	33-1	25-1	25-1

Each-way a quarter the odds, places, 1, 2, 3 (Cheltenham, Tuesday, 17 March)

1998 Cheltenham Gold Cup Chase (3m 2f 110yds)

Horse (Trainer)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Tote
Dorans Pride (M Hourigan/Ir)	6-1	7-1	5-1	6-1
Suny Bay (C Brooks)	6-1	6-1	7-1	7-1
The Grey Monk (G Richards)	8-1	8-1	7-1	8-1
Mr Mulligan (N Chance)	10-1	12-1	10-1	10-1
Addington Boy (G Richards)	16-1	16-1	16-1	12-1
Imperial Call (F Sutherland/Ir)	14-1	16-1	16-1	14-1
Simply Dashing (T Easterby)	16-1	14-1	16-1	16-1
Cyborgo (M Pipe)	16-1	20-1	16-1	20-1
Barton Bank (D Nicholson)	20-1	25-1	20-1	20-1
Rough Quest (T Casey)	20-1	25-1	25-1	20-1
Sparky Gayle (C Parker)	25-1	25-1	25-1	20-1
Strong Promise (G Hubbard)	16-1	20-1	25-1	25-1
Banjo (D Nicholson)	33-1	25-1	20-1	20-1
Coome Hill (W Dennis)	25-1	20-1	33-1	16-1
Danoli (T Foley/Ir)	33-1	25-1	20-1	25-1

Each-way a quarter the odds, places, 1, 2, 3 (Cheltenham, Thursday, 19 March)

SNOOKER

McKenzie dismissal starts revolt

The sacking of Jim McKenzie, the chief executive, yesterday after only five months in the post has left the sport in danger of breaking apart.

McKenzie was appointed by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association last July but his job has been in jeopardy since he fell out with the association's 64-year-old chairman, Rex Williams.

Now the leading manager Ian Doyle will call for a special general meeting to try to overthrow Williams. It was Doyle who led the last rebellion early this year to help Williams succeed the former chairman Geoff Foulds.

Doyle said: "War has been declared. It's a disgraceful situation. There are a number of people who have not stood up to be counted."

Doyle then confirmed his determination to bring down Williams and two of the chairman's supporters, Bob Close and Jim Meadowcroft, who were elected following the previous coup.

Doyle said: "Jim is absolutely astonished by what's happened, especially as he didn't have a hearing."

Discussing his dismissal, McKenzie said : "At no time have I been given an opportunity to respond to any criticism the board may have of my performance. Nor am I aware of any."

ICE HOCKEY

Panthers hit by Bishop injury scare

Nottingham Panthers are awaiting a specialist's report on the back injury sustained by Mike Bishop during Saturday's Superleague victory at home to Basingstoke Bison.

The 33-year-old defender collapsed four minutes into the 3-2 victory with back spasms. X-rays showed no break, but a spinal expert is to examine Bishop, who has been allowed out of hospital but is still in pain.

Inspired netminding by the former Sheffield Steeler, Wayne Cowley, almost denied his former team a crucial Superleague win, but the Steelers hit back from 2-0 down to beat Cowley's Newcastle Cobras 3-2 in overtime.

In The Express Cup, an eight-team competition for Superleague sides, Ayr Scottish Eagles maintained their 100 per cent record with a fifth consecutive win, 5-3 over Basingstoke Bison.

Manchester Storm led Nottingham Panthers 3-1 after the first 20 minutes, but the Superleague leaders came back to win 6-5, Kraig Neinhaus sealing his hat-trick with the winner, 36 seconds into sudden death.

HOCKEY

Knapp happy with Cannock

"Exactly what we wanted," Old Cranleighans' player-coach, David Knapp, said on learning of their home quarter-final tie in the English Hockey Association Cup against the Premier League leaders, Cannock.

"We will learn more by playing Cannock than anyone else," he said. "Clearly, we are very much the underdogs but it will be the biggest day in the club's history. They play Southgate the previous day, so who knows?"

With Sunday's win against Spalding extending OC's record to 19 wins in as many games this season, Knapp has reason to be confident.

The draw also features two all-Premiership contests. Canterbury visit Birmingham to take on Barford Tigers and Beeston, who produced a surprise defeat of Southgate on Sunday, travel to Doncaster.

The second non-National League side in the last eight, Chichester, have a home draw against Stourport, the only team left in the competition to have contested a Cup final when they were beaten 3-0 by Havant at Luton in 1990.

EHA CUP Quarter-finals: Old Cranleighans v Cannock; Barford Tigers v Canterbury; Doncaster v Beeston; Chichester v Stourport. *Ties to be played Sunday 25 January.*

– *Bill Colwill*

RESULTS

KELSO

12.50: 1. LEDGENDRY LINE (P Niven) 2-5 fav; **2. Caulker** 8-1; **3. Fassan** 10-1. 14 ran. 7, 8. (Mrs M Reveley, Saltburn). Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £2.00, £1.60. DF: £4.40. CSF: £4.48. Tricast: £6.80. Non Runner: Justin Mac.

1.20: 1. YOUNG KENNY (R Supple) 4-7 fav; **2. Military Academy** 2-1; **3. Deise Marshall** 25-1. 8 ran. dist, dist. (P Beaumont, Brandsby). Tote: £1.70; £1.20, £1.70, £2.60. DF: £2.60. CSF: £1.87.

1.50: 1. COMMON SOUND (C McCormack) 6-1; **2. Rachael's Owen** 7-1; **3. China King** 2-1 fav. 7 ran. hd, 13. (J Barclay, Leslie). Tote: £4.90; £2.30, £2.80. DF: £13.20. CSF: £38.36.

2.20: 1. CEILIDH BOY (B Storey) 13-2; **2. D'Arblay Street** 7-1; **3. Ask Me Later** 11-10 fav. 5 ran. nk, nk. (Mrs J Goodfellow, Earlston). Tote: £7.30; £2.10, £2.90. DF: £15.00. CSF: £38.30.

2.50: 1. CASH BOX (N Smith) 6-5 fav; **2. Rallegio** 4-1; **3. Manshaar** 6-4. 3 ran. 2, dist. (T Carr, Saltburn-By-Sea). Tote: £1.60. DF: £3.20. CSF: £4.66. NR: Linlathen.

3.20: 1. THE KHOINOA (Mr Chris Wilson) 7-1; **2. Monotony** 25-1; **3. Young Steven** 16-1. 9 ran. evens fav Global Legend (4th). 14, 18. (Mrs A Swinbank, Richmond). Tote: £7.30; £2.30, £1.20, £2.70. DF: £121.00. CSF: £139.38. Trio: £403.50; £125.05 carried forward to Lingfield 3.20 today.

Placepot: £1,467.90. **Quadpot:** £575.30.
Place 6: £1,241.14. **Place 5:** £1,035.28.

FOLKESTONE

1.00: 1. EURO FORUM (O Burrows) 2-1; **2. Mr Chataway** 10-1; **3. Occold** 4-7 fav. 5 ran. 3, 2½. (J Gifford). Tote: £3.10; £1.60, £5.50. DF: £9.20. CSF: £17.04.

1.30: 1. SILENT CRACKER (G Bradley) 4-1; **2. Melody Maid** evens fav; **3. Top Note** 4-1. 10 ran. 1¼, 3. (M Pitman). Tote: £12.40; £2.60, £2.10, £1.00. DF: £13.80. CSF: £27.90. Trio: £12.50. NR: Elbgri.

2.00: 1. ANTONIO MARIANO (L Aspell) 5-2 fav; **2. Daring King** 20-1; **3. Keep Me In Mind** 11-2. 8 ran. 7, 12. (P Mooney). Tote: £3.90; £1.90, £6.50, £1.60. DF: £16.80. CSF: £42.23. Tricast: £238.56.

2.30: 1. CHEEKY CHARLIE (D Gallagher) 4-1; **2. Cabochon** 11-4 fav; **3. Ross Dancer** 5-1. 8 ran. 1¼, 8. (G L Moore). Tote: £6.80; £2.10, £1.10, £2.50. DF: £8.10. CSF: £14.83. Tricast: £51.05.

3.00: 1. DREAM LEADER (M A Fitzgerald) 7-2; **2. Secret Bid** 10-1; **3. Lay It Off** 4-1. 9 ran. 9-4 fav Jac Del Prince. 2, 7. (M Roberts). Tote: £4.20; £1.80, £2.30, £2.10. DF: £19.90. CSF: £35.78. Tricast: £136.15. Trio: £62.20.

3.30: 1. PENNYWISE (S Kelly) 10-1; **2. Deep C Diva** 4-1 jt fav; **3. Landa's Counsel** 4-1 jt fav. 14 ran. 1¾, ¾. (Miss Venetia Williams). Tote: £11.60; £3.30, £2.00, £1.40. DF: £24.70. CSF: £51.97. Trio: £99.80.

Jackpot: not won; £15,783.23 carried forward to Newcastle today.
Placepot: £50.10. **Quadpot:** £15.00.
Place 6: £43.78. **Place 5:** £11.18.

WORCESTER

12.40: 1. JUST JASMINE (R Greene) 5-4 fav; **2. Dutch Dyane** 16-1; **3. Galacia** 5-1. 8 ran. 6, 1¼. (K Bishop, Bridgwater). Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £3.10. DF: £9.00. CSF: £14.21. NR: Hill Farm Blues.

1.10: 1. ESCARTEFIGUE (A Maguire) 1-3 fav; **2. Denham Hill** 5-1; **3. General Tonic** 12-1. 4 ran. 6, 6. (D Nicholson, Temple Guiting). Tote: £1.20. DF: £1.70. CSF: £2.28.

1.40: 1. ROYALE ANGELA (R Johnson) 8-13 fav; **2. Ainsi Soit Il** 9-1; **3. Court Circular** 14-1. 4 ran. 4, sh hd. (J Neville, Newport). Tote: £1.70. DF: £4.20. CSF: £5.31.

2.10: 1. SIMPSON (A Maguire) 6-4; **2. Deyborg** 4-7 fav. 2 ran. 17. (J Old, Wroughton). Tote: £1.50.

2.40: 1. EASY FEELIN (A Maguire) 1-7 fav; **2. Good Lord Murphy** 8-1; **3. Folding** 66-1. 5 ran. 3, dist. (D Nicholson, Temple Guiting). Tote: £1.10; £1.00, £2.30. DF: £1.40. CSF: £1.84.

3.10: 1. TIDEBROOK (Mr R Wakley) 11-8 fav; **2. Hawkfield** 2-1; **3. Well Timed** 9-2. 5 ran. 3½, 3½. (K Bailey, Upper Lambourn). Tote: £2.10; £1.10, £1.80. DF: £2.30. CSF: £4.00.

3.40: 1. FESTIVE TEAK (R Massey) 4-6 fav; **2. Dunbury Flyer** 8-1; **3. Beefy Nova** 6-1. 8 ran. 1½, 19. (D Nicholson). Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £1.40, £1.30. DF: £3.60. CSF: £6.08.

Placepot: £20.10. **Quadpot:** £8.50.
Place 6: £8.35. **Place 5:** £4.48.

● Frankie Dettori makes an unexpected return to action in Britain on the Equitrack at Lingfield today. He is engaged to ride Sweet Supposin for Newmarket trainer Chris Dwyer in Division Two of the Marsh Green Handicap.

THE INDEPENDENT
RACING SERVICES
0891 261 +
LIVE COMMENTARIES | RESULTS
NEWCASTLE 971 981
LINGFIELD 973 983
ALL COURSES RESULTS
0891 261 970
Calls cost 50p per minute. U.S. plc, Scrutton St, EC2A 4RJ

NEWCASTLE

HYPERION
12.20 French Holly
12.50 I'm Maggy
1.25 ANABRANCH (nap)
1.55 Elusive Star (nb)
2.25 Nigel's Lad
2.55 Committed Schedule
3.30 King's Measure

GOING: Good.
● Left-hand, oval course; with rising run-in; tough, galloping track.
● Course is on A1 5m N of town. Metro service to Four Lane Ends station from Newcastle railway station. Bus service from there. **ADMISSION:** Club £15; Tattersalls £9; Silver Ring £4 (£2 for OAPs and registered disabled) **CAR PARK:** Free.
● **LEADING TRAINERS:** Mrs M Reveley 35-149 (23.5%), G Richards 12-65 (18.5%), J Howard Johnson 12-109 (11%), P Cheesbrough 11-73 (15.1%), J M Jefferson 10-35 (28.6%).
● **LEADING JOCKEYS:** P Niven 36-121 (29.8%), B Storey 14-129 (10.9%), R Garritty 13-73 (17.8%), L Wyer 11-79 (13.9%), T Reed 9-69 (13%), R Guest 6-58 (10.3%), M Brennan 5-16 (31.3%).
● **FAVOURITES:** 146-329 (44.4%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

12.20 NORTHERN RACING NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £2,379

1 2/63-1 FRENCH HOLLY (USA) (16) (K Flood) F Murphy 6 11 5 ... A Thornton
2 0-5 ANGRY NATIVE (24) (John Wade) J Wade 5 10 12 ... S Taylor (5)
3 D BARTON BLACK (NZ) (53) (Stanley W Clarke) S Brookshaw 5 10 12 ... S Wynne
4 0F5-3P DAN DE MAN (10) (David J Poulter Partnership) Miss L Siddall 6 10 12 ... R Dunwoody
5 0P6P-4 POINT DUTY (22) (J J Henderson) F Murtagh 7 10 12 ... B Storey
6 00-50 SUMO (24) (Mrs Jennifer Woodward) Mrs S Lamyman 4 10 12 ... J Magee (3)
7 00- SUNSTRIKE (299) (R McDonald) R McDonald 5 10 12 ... R Supple
8 0/ SUSHI BAR (F57) (Tremousser Partnership) Mrs M Reveley 5 10 12 ... P Niven
9 2-0 YOUNG TOMO (14) (Michael Thompson) J Howard Johnson 5 10 12 ... E Callaghan
10 00-00 CEEJAYELL (10) (Northumberland Group Racing Club) N Chamberlain 4 10 7 ... T Reed
11 KERRISDALE (Brandsby Racing) P Beaumont 5 10 7 ... B Grattan (5)
12 LADYLANDS (Stanwick Racing) Miss S Williamson 4 10 7 ... J Supple
13 PHEASANTS DELIGHT (Geoff Pickering) Mrs M Reveley 7 10 7 ... N Smith
14 0-0 RAG DOLL (20) (The Sun Punters Club) J Howard Johnson 5 10 7 ... D Parker
15 00- SANTA BARBARA (354) (B Hayes) C Grant 6 10 7 ... R Garritty
– 15 declared –

BETTING: 2-5 French Holly, 5-1 Sushi Bar, 10-1 Young Tomo, 12-1 Dan de Man, 14-1 Kerrisdale, Barton Black, 16-1 Santa Barbara, 20-1 Pheasants Delight, 33-1 others
1996: Beggars Banquet 6 10 12 B Grattan (7) 9-2 (P Beaumont) 19 ran

FORM GUIDE
FRENCH HOLLY is a star act who can be backed to defy the penalty after an impressive win at Ayr from Ledgendry Line, who won at Kelso yesterday. A leading bumper horse two seasons ago and sixth to Florida Pearl at the Cheltenham Festival last season, French Holly should prove much too good for this opposition, especially as hes put up in distance. Kerrisdale is a half-sister to some jumping winners and the stable had a newcomer-chase winner in Jay'M at Carlisle last week so Kerrisdale is likely to be fit enough. Young Tomo, second to the smart Kings Measure in a bumper last season, wants the trip judged on his hurdles showing behind Caulker at Wetherby. Sushi Bar, a three-times winner on the Flat from 12 to 16 furlongs, is likely to do better now after showing nothing on his jumping debut here two years ago. Santa Barbara and Barton Black can do better after their bumper runs, though they cannot be fancied to contain the favourite. Richard Dunwoody rides a slow sort in Dan de Man, who was pulled up at Market Rasen last time. **Selection: FRENCH HOLLY**

12.50 NEWCASTLE FLOORING AND HALSTEAD'S NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m Pen Value £2,463

1 0860-U AIR BRIDGE (23) (N W A Bannister) R Whitaker 5 10 12 ... D Bentley
2 5 ALPINE HIDEAWAY (8) (Easterby Traders) M W Easterby 4 10 12 ... A Thornton
3 14/20- BALLAD MINSTREL (265) (D) (G E Shouler) J FitzGerald 5 10 12 ... P Carberry
4 6/P- BLACK ICE BOY (F43) (Mrs Judith Marshall) R Bastiman 6 10 12 ... H Bastiman (5)
5 08- BLUE LUGANA (F220) (J A Swinburne) N Bycroft 5 10 12 ... B Grattan (5)
6 0 DOCTOR BRAVIOUS (21) (Ms Glyns Purcell-Brydon) B Ellison 4 10 12 ... D Parker
7 0 GENERAL ACADEMY (8) (Mrs M E Curtis) J Curtis 4 10 12 ... D Byrne
8 GREY SHOT (F37) (J C Smith) I Balding 5 10 12 ... R Dunwoody
9 5442-5 J J BABOO (16) (Roland Roper) M Hammond 4 10 12 ... R Garritty
10 0 LAND OF CHIEFS (16) (K Lee) F Murphy 4 10 12 ... Mr S Durack (5)
11 LAW DESIGNER (L C Maultby) S Bell 5 10 12 ... K Johnson
12 0-0 MAGNUS MAXIMUS (38) (P Lamyman) Mrs S Lamyman 5 10 12 ... J Magee (3)
13 44/0-4 MY BUSTER (20) (Mrs J M L Milligan) Miss M Milligan 5 10 12 ... R Guest
14 0 NOTOOBIG (38) (J A Stephenson) P Cheesbrough 5 10 12 ... R Supple
15 6 NOUKARI (21) (Cama Transport (Ireland) Ltd) J Howard Johnson 4 10 12 ... E Callaghan
16 OPAQUE (F24) (G J Keary) W Storey 5 10 12 ... R McGrath (3)
17 P RASIN CHARGE (8) (Ray Craggs) R Craggs 6 10 12 ... B Storey
18 0/0- STINGING BEE (402) (W G Reed) W Reed 6 10 12 ... T Reed
19 4-2 THE BUTTERWICK KID (14) (Robert Chambers) R Fahey 4 10 12 ... F Leahy (3)
20 2R2-1 WYNYARD KNIGHT (23) (D) (Sir John Hall) Mrs M Reveley 5 10 12 ... P Niven
21 03 I'M MAGGY (NZ) (13) (Stanley W Clarke) S Brookshaw 7 10 7 ... S Wynne
22 F NATIVE SONG (10) (Invicta Bloodstock) W Storey 4 10 7 ... C McCormack (7)
– 22 declared –

BETTING: 1-2 Grey Shot, 7-1 Wynyard Knight, 8-1 Opaque, 10-1 Ballad Minstrel, 12-1 J J Baboo, The Butterwick Kid, 14-1 I'm Maggy, 20-1 Alpine Hideaway, 25-1 others
1996: Alabang 5 11 5 P Niven 10-11 fav (M Camacho) 16 ran

FORM GUIDE
Ian Balding has had some decent jumping horses in his time, notably Imperial Cup winner Insular and Cheltenham Festival scorer Crystal Spirit. The Kingsclere trainer now unleashes **GREY SHOT**, a classy stayer on the level with Richard Dunwoody doing the educating. There are plenty in opposition but it could be the ground rather than the hurdles that finds him out. Better on a faster surface. Grey Shot is still hard to oppose if in the same form that enabled him to reverse Newbury running with Jiyush when beating Double Eclipse and Further Flight in the Jockey Club Stakes at Newmarket in October. **Opaque**, another jumping for the first time, wouldn't have lived with Grey Shot on the Flat. **Ballad Minstrel**, a bumper winner in testing ground at Haydock two seasons ago, is the type to relish the conditions and should go well for his in-form trainer Mary Reveley's bumper winner **Wynyard Knight** looks bound to run another sound race after beating a big field at Wetherby on his reappearance. **The Butterwick Kid** was a dour staying type on the level. He has conditions to suit today but he lacked any sort of pace at Wetherby last month when pipped by Caulker **I'm Maggy** shaped with promise when a close third to Hill Farm Blues at Haydock and looks easily better than Flat winner **Alpine Hideaway**, who was only fifth to Flying North at Catterick. **Selection: GREY SHOT**

1.25 RAMSIDE EVENT CATERING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,300 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £4,260

1 F631-2 POLITICAL TOWER (16) (CD) (BF) (G R S Nixon) R Nixon 10 12 0 ... C McCormack (7)
2 5-111 ANABRANCH (32) (D) (Mrs M Barker) J M Jefferson 6 10 10 ... E Callaghan
3 1223-4 BOLD BOSS (17) (CD) (John Robson) G M Moore 8 10 5 ... B Storey
4 41324- DUAL IMAGE (262) (CD) (Datum Building Supplies) J FitzGerald 10 10 3 ... P Carberry
5 60402- SUPER SANDY (206) (D) (Mrs F T Walton) F Walton 10 10 0 ... K Johnson
– 5 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Super Sandy 7st 12lb
BETTING: 2-1 Anabranch, 9-4 Political Tower, 11-4 Dual Image, 4-1 Bold Boss, 20-1 Super Sandy
1996: Political Tower 9 11 10 A Dobbin 6-4 fav (R Nixon) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE
The progressive mare **ANABRANCH** represents the trainer/jockey combination that got a nice result with Go-Informal at Newbury on Saturday. Anabranch is unbeaten in four starts this term and while they were softish races on faster ground than this, she still appeals as being good enough to concede the weight to **Bold Boss** who finished tailed off on his reappearance at Ayr last month. Dual Image could prove dangerous. He needs the kid-glove treatment and today's rider Paul Carberry won on him over hurdles at Doncaster last January. Dual Image is well handicapped on his chase win on the course the following month and, getting 7lb from Anabranch, is worth a saver with his stable being in fine form. **Political Tower** is a consistent chaser who is best at this trip. He will be all the better for his seasonal run at Ayr when second to Monnaie Forte, who was getting two stone, but he could just be vulnerable under this 12st. **Super Sandy** has little chance being so far out of the handicap. **Selection: ANABRANCH**

1.55 LEVY BOARD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m Penalty Value £2,201

1 333-56 OUR KRIS (19) (D) (Mrs Ruth Sellers) M Sowersby 5 11 10 ... M H Naughton
2 00012- TOSHIBA TALK (F108) (Toshiba (UK) Ltd) B Ellison 5 11 7 ... C McCormack (3)
3 -12222 PENTLAND SQUIRE (12) (Mrs E M Dixon) J Jefferson 6 11 4 ... A K Smith (5)
4 02125- DIAMOND BEACH (F45) (D) (Valueplace Ltd) G M Moore 4 11 3 ... E Callaghan
5 1P-61P TRIENNIUM (USA) (17) (D) (M C Boyd) P Monteith 8 11 3 ... I Jardine (5)
6 5326/1 ELUSIVE STAR (23) (D) (W Ginzel) Mrs M Reveley 7 11 0 ... G Lee
7 231-34 STRONG JOHN (12) (S Brunshaw) M Sowersby 9 10 9 ... N Horrocks (3)
8 0454-5 PRIDDY FAIR (11) (D) (The Ebor Partnership) D Barker 4 10 9 ... E Husband
9 00125- KILDRUMMY CASTLE (221) (D) (Kildrummy Partnership) J FitzGerald 5 10 2 ... F Leahy
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 6-4 Elusive Star, 4-1 Pentland Squire, 11-2 Diamond Beach, 6-1 Kildrummy Castle, 10-1 Toshiba Talk, 12-1 Priddy Fair, 14-1 Strong John, Triennium, Our Kris
1996: Kemo Sabo 4 10 5 D Parker 7-2 (C Parker) 8 ran

FORM GUIDE
The runner to take the eye at the weights is **Kildrummy Castle** though the cut in the ground may not be ideal for him after his win on the fast at Uttoxeter last March. The gelding had a wind operation prior to that success so testing ground may never be his cup of tea. **ELUSIVE STAR** rates a safer proposition after she surprised connections when winning at Wetherby last month. She was the stable's second string and that winning form has been franked by the placed horses Caulker and Scotton Green. **Diamond Beach** had a run on the flat in October, but this four-year-old has to concede 3lb to Elusive Star. **Pentland Squire** seems to prefer fast ground and was a disappointing favourite two outings ago when beaten by Charley Lambert. **Priddy Fair**, beaten a long way in Silly Money's Aintree race last month, is another who seems highly tried while **Strong John** and **Triennium** are no better than platers. **Toshiba Talk** is having his first run of the season, has a chance on his form of last term over longer trips. **Selection: ELUSIVE STAR**

2.25 GOSFORTH PARK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £4,850 added 3m Penalty Value £3,274

1 52111- GREAT EASEBY (F45) (CD) (D C Batey) W Storey 7 12 0 ... R McGrath (3)
2 21211- INN AT THE TOP (311) (Mrs Sylvia Blakeley) J Turner 6 11 4 ... R Supple
3 21151- NIGEL'S LAD (F45) (C) (N C Dunnington) P Haslam 5 11 4 ... M Foster
4 112-45 HIT THE CANVAS (USA) (13) (Jeremy Mitchell) Mrs M Reveley 6 10 6 ... P Niven
5 1056-0 ZAMHAREER (USA) (16) (C) (D) (D C Batey) W Storey 6 10 0 ... C McCormack (7)
6 120-13 TOUGH TEST (95) (D) (BF) (J D Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 7 10 0 ... B Storey
7 351225 DONT FORGET CURTIS (10) (D) (Mrs F M Lamb) Mrs F Lamb 5 10 0 ... Miss S Lamb (7)
– 7 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Zamhareer 9st 12lb. Tough Test 9st 9lb. Dont Forget Curtis 6st 5lb
BETTING: 15-8 Nigel's Lad, 100-30 Inn At The Top, 5-1 Hit The Canvas, 6-1 Zamhareer, 7-1 Great Easeby, 8-1 Tough Test, 12-1 Dont Forget Curtis
1996: Sedvicta 4 10 0 G Cahill (3) 6-5 fav (Mrs M Reveley) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE
Nigel's Lad and **INN AT THE TOP** were both decent novices last season who won over 2m4f. Nigel's Lad ran his rivals ragged on this course in February and he was last seen, along with Great Easeby, in the Cesarewitch. I just favour Inn At The Top, who won three times on faster ground and who also put up a sound effort in defeat against Beggars Banquet on this course. For a horse who beat Mighty Moss (second to Istabraq at the Cheltenham Festival) at Doncaster, Inn At The Top looks very well weighted. Winning chaser **Tough Test** will stay every yard and can be given a chance off only 10st, but 12st looks a stopper for Great Easeby, who was off the course all of last jumps season. But his presence has kept the weights down, which has done a favour to stablemate **Zamhareer**, who should be sharper for a run at Ayr last month after some disappointing runs on the level. **Hit The Canvas** has a more realistic chance after two runs with a welter burden, though faster ground has suited him in the past. **Selection: INN AT THE TOP**

2.55 POLYFLOR AND NEWCASTLE FLOORING NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £4,950 added 3m Penalty Value £3,566

1 633-11 COMMITTED SCHEDULE (8) (The Schedule Partnership) G Richards 6 11 10 ... P Niven
2 4-5212 MAYBE O'GRADY (14) (D) (Mrs Ann Bell) W Cunningham 8 11 4 ... N Smith
3 2U32-2 FERN LEADER (25) (D) (Robin Ward) C Grant 7 10 12 ... R Dunwoody
4 F5/45P HICKSONS CHOICE (12) (John Wade) J Wade 9 10 12 ... Mr S Durack (5)
5 2P323/ OVER THE CORRIB (616) (D) (J W P Curtis) J Curtis 7 10 12 ... R Guest
6 4161-U PUREVALUE (19) (CD) (Mrs Jean Turpin) M W Easterby 6 10 12 ... P Carberry
7 3-4405 QUIXALL CROSSETT (3) (Mrs Karen Woodhead) E Cane 12 10 12 ... S Taylor (5)
8 35413/ RADICAL CHOICE (644) (J I A Charlton) J Charlton 8 10 12 ... B Storey
9 /U/U22- WINTER BELLE (USA) (340) (Mrs M W Bird) J Howard Johnson 9 10 12 ... E Callaghan
10 52 TALL TALE (33) (John Wade) J Wade 5 10 11 ... A Thornton
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Fern Leader, 3-1 Purevalue, 4-1 Committed Schedule, 5-1 Maybe O'Grady, 8-1 Winter Belle, 12-1 Tall Tale, 14-1 Radical Choice, 16-1 Over The Corrib, 20-1 Hicksons Choice, Quixall Crossett
1996: Majority Major 7 10 12 A S Smith 14-1 (P Cheesbrough) 11 ran

FORM GUIDE
This is a tough course for novices so I'm going along with **COMMITTED SCHEDULE** to confirm the Hexham form with Fern Leader even on the bad terms. Fern Leader is liable to clump a few but a 12lb pull for the neck beating by Committed Schedule (won since at Catterick) gives him a great chance with a clear round. Fern Leader has changed stables since last season and will be ridden by Richard Dunwoody, who has won on Purevalue, a decent staying hurdler last season but an early casualty on his chasing debut at Market Rasen. **Winter Belle** disappointed last season, but **Maybe O'Grady** seems to be getting better and he hunted up the classy Forest Ivory at Wetherby last time. **Selection: COMMITTED SCHEDULE**

3.30 ST. MODWEN STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m Penalty Value £1,413

1 1-1 KINGS MEASURE (22) (D) (John H Wilson) J Jefferson 4 12 0 ... E Callaghan
2 1 CHAPARRO AMARGOSO (60) (D) (J A Berry) B Ellison 4 11 11 ... M H Naughton (5)
3 1- QUEENSWAY (201) (D) (G E Shouler) J FitzGerald 5 11 11 ... P Carberry
4 11 SILLYMORE (16) (D) (Mrs M I Nisbet) P Monteith 4 11 9 ... I Jardine (7)
5 BRANCH END (Mrs J J Straker) J Charlton 5 11 4 ... D Thomas (7)
6 0- BRIEF SUSPENCE (312) (A & K Lingerie) R Fahey 4 11 4 ... F Leahy (3)
7 20-0 CARLINGFORD TYKE (23) (Jostigo Racing) T Carr 5 11 4 ... N Smith
8 0 CHARLIE D'OR (16) (E F Brown) J Dodds 4 11 4 ... Mr S Durack (5)
9 004- DONNYBROOK (213) (R Smith (York)) R Woodhouse 4 11 4 ... B Grattan (5)
10 GUS BERRY (D M Forster) D M Forster 4 11 4 ... D Parker
11 JOE BUZZ (Joe Buzzeo) F Murphy 5 11 4 ... A Thornton
12 MASTER WOOD (Roy Robinson) C Grant 6 11 4 ... R Garritty
13 0 SAYONARA (33) (N Chamberlain) N Chamberlain 4 11 4 ... T Reed
14 SNUFF BOX (C J Cookson) B Mactaggart 4 11 4 ... B Storey
15 SUMTHYNE SPECIAL (J M Crichton) L Lungo 5 11 4 ... R Supple
16 6 TELL ME ANOTHER (33) (John Wade) J Wade 5 11 4 ... S Taylor (5)
17 62- TIME WARRIOR (221) (Mrs Susan Moore) G M Moore 6 11 4 ... N Hannity (7)
18 01- TRIP YOUR TRIGGER (640) (Panther Racing Ltd) C Grant 6 11 4 ... J Callaghan
19 6- WHAT A TALE (301) (BF) (Jemm Partnership) Mrs M Reveley 5 11 4 ... G Lee (3)
20 WOODFIELD RIDE (Mrs M B Scholey) Mrs M Reveley 4 11 4 ... P Niven
21 0- FLOSS THE BOSS (246) (I M Lynch) Mrs J Brown 4 10 13 ... C McCormack (7)
22 ISLAND PATH (J Nelson) L Lungo 4 10 13 ... W Dowling (7)
23 LOOKING GOOD (Mrs S L Barch) R Woodhouse 4 10 13 ... W Dean
24 PAPERBACK WRITER (G F White) G White 5 10 13 ... S Melrose (7)
25 P- SEE MORE CASTLES (241) (G A Harker) G A Harker 6 10 13 ... D Pears
– 25 declared –

BETTING: 11-8 Kings Measure, 100-30 Queensway, 7-1 Woodfield Ride, 8-1 Sillymore, 10-1 Chaparro Amargoso, 12-1 Joe Buzz, 14-1 What A Tale, 20-1 Time Warrior, Trip Your Trigger, Master Wood, Sumthyne Special, 25-1 others
1996: Mr Lurpak 4 11 4 P Niven 5-2 fav (Mrs M Reveley) 31 ran

FORM GUIDE
Mary Reveley won this bumper last season with Mr Lurpak so her King's Ride newcomer **WOODFIELD RIDE**, the mount of Peter Niven, is taken to surprise the unbeaten quartet of **Kings Measure, Queensway, Chaparro Amargoso** and **Sillymore**. Kings Measure beat 19 rivals at Ayr last season and looked just as good with a cheeky success at Carlisle on his return. But the 10lb penalty on softer ground sets him a sterner test. Queensway looked smart when making a winning debut at Perth in May. He could go very close today and he's preferred to Chaparro Amargoso and Sillymore–Peter Monteith's filly having a hard race when winning at Ayr last time. The Phardante newcomer **Jo Buzz**, trained by Ferdy Murphy, could prove best of the others. **Selection: WOODFIELD RIDE**

LINGFIELD (AW)

HYPERION
11.40 Massyar Seventeen 12.10 Bagshot 12.40 Eastern Prophets 1.10 Elite Hope 1.45 Harpoon Louie 2.15 White Plains 2.45 Kalimat 3.20 Sharp Imp

GOING: Standard. **STALLS:** 5f & 1m – outside; rest – inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best 5f & 6f.
● Equitrack surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.
● Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. **ADMISSION:** Members £13, Family Enclosure £9. **CAR PARK:** Club £3; remainder free.
● **LEADING TRAINERS:** G L Moore 72-554 (13%), M Johnston 59-302 (19.5%), Lord Huntingdon 49-243 (20.2%), R O'Sullivan 47-341 (13.8%).
● **LEADING JOCKEYS:** A Clark 61-505 (12.1%), D Holland 48-217 (22.1%), S Whitworth 40-290 (13.8%), D Biggs 39-480 (8.1%).
● **FAVOURITES:** 761-2253 (33.8%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Magazine Gap (12.10), Ladybower (12.10), Lucy In The Sky (12.40), Rocky Waters (1.45), Hadadabble (visored) (1.45), Slievenamon (3.20).

11.40 MARSH GREEN HANDICAP (CLASS E) (Div I) £4,025 added 1m 2f

1 0121- ADAMTON (336) (CD) Mrs J Cecil 5 10 0 ... Dean McKeown 5
2 400350 KAILEY SENOR (22) (D) R Armstrong 4 10 0 ... D Biggs 8
3 300004 TISSUE OF LIES (22) (C) J Akehurst 4 9 11 ... M Tebbutt 6
4 030023 CLASSIC FIND (USA) (28) (D) Pat Mitchell 4 9 8 ... M Fenton 4
5 045 SANDY SADDLER (103) S Dow 3 9 6 ... R Perham 3
6 05405! MASSYAR SEVENTEEN (14) (CD) H Collingridge 3 9 6 ...
7 200281 BATAAN (37) A Vanderhaeghen (Bel) 6 9 4 ... N Servranckx 12
8 134-66 BILLADDIE (253) (C) R Flower 4 8 13 ... A Clark 11
9 314202 WELCOME HEIGHTS (22) M F-Godley 3 8 12 ... F Norton 2
10 160033 WILDMOOR (8) John Berry 3 8 5 ... T Williams 7 E
11 403330 OOZLEM (7) (C) L Montague Hall 8 7 10 ... P M Quinn (7) 9 B
12 00000 I SEE YOU SYDNEY (77) M Polglase 3 7 10 ... J Lowe 10
– 12 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: I See You Sydney 7st 8lb.
BETTING: 7-2 Welcome Heights, 5-1 Classic Find, 6-1 Adamton, Massyar Seventeen, 13-2 Sandy Saddler, 8-1 Tissue Of Lies, Wildmoor, 12-1 Bataan, 14-1 Kailey Senor, 16-1 Billaddie, Oozlem, 50-1 I See You Sydney

12.10 MEDWAY SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) (Div I) £2,875 added 1m

1 300000 BAGSHOT (19) (CD) G L Moore 6 9 8 ... S Whitworth 9 B
2 212250 GLOSSATOR (30) (D) A Vanderhaeghen (Bel) 5 9 3 ... M Servranckx 5
3 020000 MAGAZINE GAP (4) Pat Mitchell 4 8 12 ... Amanda Sanders 7 E
4 -60546 NA HUIBHEACHU (109) J S Moore 6 8 12 ... P P Murphy (3) 6
5 0-0000 FALCON RIDGE (35) J Fox 3 8 11 ... W J O'Connor 4
6 060400 PATRICK (J58) D Burchell 3 8 11 ... R Ffrench (3) 1
7 000000 PRINCE CONFEY (11) D Wintle 3 8 11 ... V Slattery 8
8 0-0 KEEN SALLY (18) R Guest 4 8 7 ... P Roberts (3) 10
9 000000 LADYBOWER (19) (D) J Poulton 5 8 7 ... D Biggs 2 E
10 0 SEA PENNANT (18) Mrs H Walton 3 8 6 ... J Tate 3
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 11-10 Bagshot, 3-1 Glossator, 8-1 Patrick, 10-1 Na Huibheachu, 12-1 Magazine Gap, 14-1 Falcon Ridge, Keen Sally, 33-1 others

12.40 ANTELOPE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 5f

1 42665 HALF TONE (69) (CD) R Flower 5 9 13 ... A Clark 4 B
2 000002 EASTERN PROPHETS (17) (D) G Lewis 4 9 13 ... Dean McKeown 6
3 010063 TEAR WHITE (14) (D) T Mills 3 9 12 ... Lisa Hackett (7) 3
4 052433 ANOTHER BATCHWORTH (26) (D) E Wheeler 5 9 11 ... S Carson (7) 10 B
5 600000 MIJAS (14) (CD) L Montague Hall 4 9 7 ... F Lynch 5
6 004610 BEAU VENTURE (55) (D) B Palling 9 9 4 ... R Ffrench (3) 9
7 004321 MYASHA (30) (C) (D) A Vanderhaeghen (Bel) 8 9 4 ... S Whitworth 7 B
8 060000 JUST DISSIDENT (62) (D) R Whitaker 5 8 11 ... M Tebbutt 1
9 0-0304 MIDNIGHT TIMES (14) D O'Brien 3 8 4 ... M Baird (3) 8
10 000300 LUCY IN THE SKY (14) B Meehan 3 7 10 ... N Carlisle 2 B
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 3-1 Eastern Prophets, 5-1 Beau Venture, 6-1 Half Tone, Another Batchworth, 13-2 Tear White, 7-1 Midnight Times, 10-1 Myasha, 12-1 Mijas, 16-1 Just Dissident, Lucy In The Sky

1.10 CHRISTMAS BOX CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 6f

1 1-0126 SALTY BEHAVIOUR (39) (D) R Hannon 3 9 5 ... R Smith (7) 9
2 006016 ANOKATO (14) (C) (BF) K Ivory 3 9 3 ... P Roberts (3) 13 B
3 002030 JOHNNY STACCATO (4) (D) R O'Sullivan 3 8 13 ... R Ffrench (3) 14
4 452430 MIKE'S DOUBLE (14) (D) Gay Kelleway 3 8 13 ... A Whelan (3) 3 B
5 3-0001 ELITE HOPE (11) (D) N Tinkler 5 8 12 ... Dean McKeown 11
6 00044 CHALUZ (14) N Burke 3 8 11 ... B Callaghan (7) 6
7 310600 LIFT BOY (26) (C) (D) G L Moore 8 5 9 ... Candy Morris 2
8 010600 WALK THE BEAT (11) (D) M Meade 7 8 9 ... R Brisland (7) 1
9 102000 MYSTICAL (14) (D) Mrs L Stubbs 3 8 6 ... S Whitworth 5 V
10 445400 MANOLO (FR) (41) J Berry 4 8 5 ... P Bradley (7) 12
11 002500 SIR TASKER (75) (CD) J L Harris 9 8 2 ... R Winston (5) 4
12 003600 WADERS DREAM (65) (D) Pat Mitchell 8 8 1 ... Amanda Sanders 8 E
13 000006 CHILI CONCERTO (11) P Makin 3 6 3 ... D Biggs 10 B
14 030600 WHIZZ KID (19) J Bridger 3 8 2 ... F Norton 7 B
– 14 declared –

BETTING: 9-2 Elite Hope, 5-1 Mike's Double, 11-2 Anokato, 6-1 Chaluz, 7-1 Lift Boy, Chili Concerto, 8-1 Manolo, Walk The Beat, 10-1 Salty Behaviour, 14-1 Johnny Staccato, 16-1 Mystical, 20-1 Sir Tasker, 33-1 others

1.45 MEDWAY SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) (Div II) £2,875 added 1m

1 201251 HARPOON LOUIE (9) (D) A Vanderhaeghen (Bel) 7 9 8 ... M Servranckx 4
2 500050 LOGIE PERT LAD (4) J Bridger 5 8 12 ... F Norton 7
3 003406 ROCKY WATERS (14) (C) M Usher 8 8 12 ... P McCabe (3) 8 B
4 0- THE MERRY MONK (J616) D Morris 6 8 12 ... N Day 9
5 -00000 MUMKIN (39) Mrs L Stubbs 3 8 11 ... S Whitworth 2 B
6 334006 TALISMAN (11) S Dow 3 8 11 ... P Doe (7) 3 B
7 050000 HADADABBLE (J15) Pat Mitchell 4 8 7 ... M Fenton 5 V
8 360400 TIME OF NIGHT (USA) (63) J L Eyre 4 8 7 ... T Williams 1
9 0-0406 MISKIN HEIGHTS (14) K Burke 3 8 6 ... A Clark 6
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 13-8 Harpoon Louie, 100-30 Mumkin, 5-1 Rocky Waters, 7-1 Talisman, 8-1 Miskin Heights, Hadadabble, 12-1 Time Of Night, 20-1 others

2.15 MARSH GREEN HANDICAP (CLASS E) (Div II) £4,025 added 1m 2f

1 502511 SEA DANZIG (7) (CD) J Bridger 4 10 0 ... Candy Morris 4
2 005002 WHITE PLAINS (7) (D) K Burke 4 9 13 ... G Parkin (3) 8
3 400000 BOWLED OVER (7) C Cyzer 4 9 9 ... R Ffrench (3) 12
4 150350 SODEN (14) (CD) T Mills 3 9 7 ... Lisa Hackett (7) 6
5 120000 EUROBOX BOY (84) A Jarvis 4 9 6 ... C Carver (7) 1
6 633655 SWEET SUPPOSIN (19) (CD) C Dwyer 6 8 6 ... L Dettori 9 V
7 -00541 PALISANDER (19) (CD) S Dow 4 8 2 ... P Doe (7) 10
8 -06200 MISSILE TOE (7) D Morris 4 8 12 ... N Day 3
9 016033 ZORRO (104) (D) (BF) R Flower 4 8 6 ... A Clark 5
10 000053 TEMPTRESS (7) (D) J L Harris 4 8 4 ... Dean McKeown 2
11 003004 GREAT CHIEF (19) Bob Jones 4 7 10 ... F Norton 11
12 000360 EXECUTIVE OFFICER (90) R Flower 4 7 12 ... J Lowe 7
– 12 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weights: Great Chief 7st 9lb. Executive Officer 7st 3lb
BETTING: 5-2 White Plains, 7-2 Sea Danzig, 5-1 Palisander, 6-1 Eurobox Boy, 7-1 Sweet Supposin, 8-1 Zorro, 10-1 Missile Toe, Temptress, 12-1 Great Chief, Soden, 20-1 others

2.45 UCKFIELD MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 3YO 1m

1 004 CLONOE (14) R Ingram 9 0 ... A Clark 8
2 00-000 LITTLE PROGRESS (197) T Jones 9 0 ... R Perham 7
3 FINAL GLORY Lord Huntingdon 8 9 ... R Ffrench (3) 4
4 223445 KALIMAT (65) W Jarvis 8 9 ... P Dobbs (7) 5
5 00003 MISCONDUCT (22) G L Moore 8 9 ... S Whitworth 3
6 60 RASPBERRY SAUCE (7) C Cyzer 8 9 ... A Morris 6
7 55200 SIFWA (14) D O'Brien 8 9 ... M Baird (3) 2
8 0 TIERRA DEL FUEGO (26) H Collingridge 8 9 ... M Rimmer 1
– 8 declared –

BETTING: 8-11 Kalimat, 3-1 Misconduct, 11-2 Final Glory, 9-1 Clonoe, 14-1 Sifwa, 20-1 Raspberry Sauce, 33-1 others

3.20 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £5,000 added 7f

1 002551 APOLLO RED (4) (CD) G L Moore 8 10 6 (6ex) ... Candy Morris 9
2 201010 VICTORY TEAM (31) (C) (D) G Balding 5 9 12 ... R Ffrench (3) 13
3 000620 ERTLON (65) (CD) (BF) C Brittain 7 9 12 ... W J O'Connor 2
4 305562 MAGIC MILL (26) (D) J L Eyre 4 9 10 ... R Lappin 1
5 150-00 COSSACK COUNT (45) S Dow 4 9 7 ... P Doe (7) 11
6 004403 SCISSOR RIDGE (4) (CD) J Bridger 5 9 4 ... F Norton 5
7 0-0000 DOVEBRACE (28) T D Barron 4 9 1 ... Kimberley Hart (5) 3
8 005050 LANCASHIRE LEGEND (4) (CD) S Dow 4 8 13 ... Dean McKeown 4
9 064000 GI LA HIGH (8) (C) M Meade 4 8 13 ... R Brisland (7) 8
10 3-0064 SALTY JACK (14) V Soane 3 8 13 ... R Perham 10
11 060000 NI CHI SAGA (155) (C) (D) G L Moore 5 8 12 ... S Whitworth 12
12 522100 SHARP IMP (84) (C) (D) R Flower 7 8 8 ... A Clark 7 B
13 -00600 SLIEVENAMON (8) R Simpson 4 7 10 ... N Carlisle 6 B
– 13 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Slievenamon 7st 9lb.
BETTING: 4-1 Scissor Ridge, 9-2 Victory Team, 5-1 Ertlon, 6-1 Magic Mill, 7-1 Apollo Red, 8-1 Salty Jack, 10-1 Dovebrace, Gi La High, 12-1 Lancashire Legend, 14-1 Cossack Count, Sharp Imp, 20-1 others

Did some bright spark say: 'Here is a chance to make lots of money'?

ALAN WATKINS

ON RUGBY

Many years ago I wrote a column saying that rugby had failed to catch up with the invention of the jet engine. My point was that, as aeroplanes now existed which could rapidly traverse long distances, lengthy tours were no longer necessary. A team from the Southern Hemisphere could come to these islands for one or two matches, and vice versa.

A former Lion commented to me that, while there was a good deal of sense in what I had written, I seemed to have taken no account of the strains that would be imposed on the players. I replied that a tour of two or three weeks would surely cause less stress than one lasting several months. He was not so sure.

The visits of New Zealand, South Africa and Australia have undoubtedly brought about some tiredness in the players. Unfortunately, the tiredness has been in the players from the host countries. The visitors are, I will not say as fresh as daisies, but certainly with a good few matches in them yet.

No team is in greater need of reuperation and rest than England. And no wonder. I do not think New Zealand have ever taken on, on four successive Saturdays, Australia, South Africa, France and then South Africa again. No doubt the present New Zealand side could cope with such a schedule more easily and successfully than England have done. But they would be showing some wear and tear at the end of it.

What I should like to know is this. Did some bright spark at the Rugby Football Union say: "Here is an opportunity for us to make lots and lots of lovely money."? Or did he say: "Here is an opportunity to pitch our national side against the very best opponents in the world, a series of confrontations from which we can only benefit."?

If it was the latter, it was a miscalculation. In teaching – not necessarily rugby, but teaching generally – there are two approaches. One is to congratulate the pupil but to point out that there are one or two matters which need to be put right. The other is to excoriate him (or her) for slipshod work which has to be corrected. The first approach is much the better because it builds up the pupil's confidence.

The visits of the teams from the Southern Hemisphere have broken down confidence. The effects of the Lions' summer tour have been dissipated. What are now called the Celtic nations will, I think, pick up their spirits more easily. On Saturday's evidence, Wales now have the basis of a formidable side. If Neil Jenkins returns to full-back, Arwel Thomas comes in at outside-half, Jeuan Evans is fit, Craig and Scott Quinnell are brought in, and a top-class loose head prop is acquired from somewhere, my native land may yet surprise everybody.

That will be in the Five Nations' Championship, shortly to be expanded and quite right too. There is no reason why England should not win some matches in that competition as well. But whereas Wales have come to terms with their status as a second-class rugby nation, England had, until the events of the last few weeks, seen themselves as a major power with a guaranteed seat at the top table.

Several factors played a part in this self-estimate. There were four Five Nations' championships (including three grand slams), in the 1990s. There was the new Twickenham. "Swing low, sweet chariot," and the rise of English rugby chauvinism, which is just as objectionable as the Welsh variety used to be in the 1970s.

And yet – here is the curious thing – a team containing several English players defeated the world champions only a few months ago. It was, admittedly, a joint enterprise involving representatives of all four home countries. Nevertheless, English players made a significant contribution to the Lions' success.

But – here is an even more curious thing – Clive Woodward, the England coach, chose not to build his team around the Lions contingent he had available to him, but to go off on frolics of his own. He is now blaming the selections policies of the English Premier Division clubs, which deprive him of choice, in particular at outside-half, by signing up foreigners of one sort or another.

There was a time, before professionalism, when the RFU nearly succeeded in confining First Division teams to England-qualified players, much as the union had done (and presumably still does) with the divisional sides. There is now a clear conflict of interest between the national side and the clubs, and no amount of hopeful talk about goodwill is going to resolve it.

But Wales had four English club players at Wembley, which must be a record, and they may have more in the future. Professionalism has changed everything. If Woodward and the RFU act in restraint of competition and free movement of labour, they may have the European Court breathing down their necks in addition to their other worries.

FOOTBALL

Everton deny Hinchcliffe is up for sale

Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, yesterday denied that he is prepared to sell the England left-back, Andy Hinchcliffe, in order to finance new signings.

The 28-year-old Hinchcliffe, who recently signed a new five-year contract, was left out for the home defeat against Tottenham at the weekend, which left the Goodison club rooted to the bottom of the Premiership table.

"If you have heard that as a rumour, then I can assure you it is just that, a rumour," Kendall said. "I left Andy out because I felt it was the best thing to do at the time. I wanted to bring our new defender Carl Tiler into the side. I haven't felt the need to talk to Andy about it. No doubt sometime this week he will ask for an explanation and I will tell him."

Should Hinchcliffe leave, he would command a fee in the region of £3m, with West Ham among interested buyers.

The deal which would have taken the Coventry City defender David Burrows to Sheffield Wednesday, with Mark Pembridge plus cash moving in the opposite direction, is off – midfielder Pembridge having decided to stay at Hillsborough.

Gary McAllister will know today the severity of the knee injury he suffered during Coventry's 2-0 defeat against Leicester on Saturday. The 33-year-old playmaker, a key figure for Scotland in the World Cup finals, will be given the results of a scan taken at a Birmingham hospital.

Sheffield United have signed the 33-year-old Dean Saunders for £400,000 from First Division promotion rivals Nottingham Forest. The striker – now at his 10th club – is the third new face to arrive at Bramall Lane in the last week.

Old Trafford is in line to host a European final for the first time. The 55,000-capacity home of Manchester United is one of five grounds being considered by Uefa for the next May's final of the Champions' League or the European Cup-Winners' Cup. However, United would not be allowed to stage the European Cup final on their own turf should they get that far.

The striker Ian Blackstone has been given a six-month suspension by the Football Association for a challenge which sparked a mass brawl in a non-League game.

Blackstone, the former York and Scarborough forward, has been fined £100 and will be suspended from the 15th of this month to 15 June because of the serious nature of the offence which occurred when he was playing for Harrogate Town in a Unibond League First Division game against Workington in October.

'Small-minded' referees may drive Ravanelli out of France

Fabrizio Ravanelli has threatened to walk out of French football if referees do not stop discriminating against him.

"If they want to drive me out of France, they're going about it the right way," the former Middlesbrough striker said after being refused a penalty in Marseilles' 1-0 defeat to Nantes on Saturday. "It can't go on like this. It's so small-minded."

The £5m French record signing was accused in the media of diving to win a penalty when Marseilles beat Paris St-Germain three weeks ago. "Ever since, referees have given every decision against me," he said.

The Italian international received support from his club captain, Laurent Blanc, who said, "It's blatant, referees are singling him out."

Ravanelli's compatriot, Marco Simone, who plays for Paris St-Germain, told him to grow up, however. "This sort of thing happens in football. It's swings and roundabouts," he said.

His coach at Marseilles, Rolland Courbis, wondered whether they could afford to put Ravanelli on the bench. "He's the club's biggest investment, but the way things are going we can't use him," he said. "If that continues, we have got to look at the commercial implications of keeping him."

Nicky Law at Ilkeston Town's New Manor Ground – which was built on an old council rubbish tip. 'Believe me, this is the hard way. People in the pro game don't realise how hard some of these little teams graft,' the 36-year-old said about life in the Dr Martens League Midland Division. Photograph: Peter Jay

Law discovers the less glamorous side of the Cup

If Ilkeston Town beat Scunthorpe United in Saturday's FA Cup second-round tie, their captain will be desperate for a third-round trip to one of his many former clubs. *Phil Shaw* meets an Highbury old boy with something to prove.

The road that led Nicky Law from the marble halls of Highbury to the home Ilkeston Town built on an old council rubbish dump was full of twists and turns. But nothing prepared him for his first experience of the FA Cup as a non-League player.

Flashback to August. The car taking Ilkeston's Matt Carmichael to the preliminary round tie at Buxton broke down, so a YTS boy of 17 deputised. The striker finally arrived at half-time, went on and scored the only goal. As Law reflected, with a smile and a shake of the shaven head, it would never have happened at the Arsenal.

Ilkeston, whom the 36-year-old Londoner captains, as he did the Gunners' youth team 20 years and as many hairstyles ago, have now battled through six rounds. A Premiership side would have the Cup and a place in Europe to show for such a sequence. The Dr Martens League Midland Division club's reward is a second-round trip to Scunthorpe on Saturday.

For the majority of the mainly youthful squad assembled by Ilkeston's manager, Keith Alexander, pitting themselves against an above-average Third Division outfit may be as good as it gets. Law has known bigger occasions in a career spanning nearly 550 League appearances, yet looks upon the game at Glanford Park as possibly his last chance to seize the spotlight.

Until now it has played hard to get. As an England schoolboy international snapped up by Arsenal at 14, he served his apprenticeship before graduating to the professional ranks and becoming a regular in the reserves alongside Paul Davis, Chris Whyte, Paul Vaessen and Raphael Meade.

In 1979, a fortnight before Arsenal contested the FA Cup final with Manchester United, Law was substitute for the first team at Aston Villa. The 17-year-old defender was not summoned from the bench to join Pat Jennings, Liam Brady, Frank Stapleton and Graham Rix and never came as close again to top-flight football.

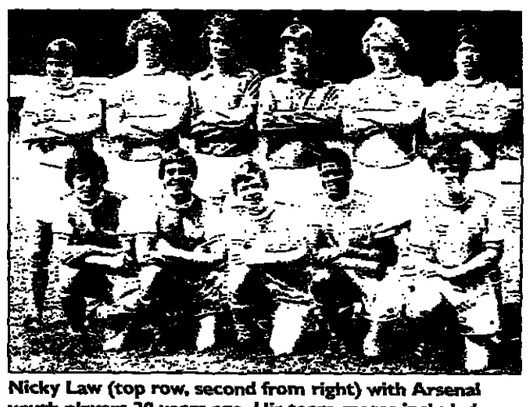
"The manager, Terry Neill, said he wanted to put me on, but we were getting stuffed 5-1 and Villa were taking us apart. It wasn't the ideal time to send a young kid on."

Fast forward to last autumn. Law had no sooner left Chesterfield, the eighth of his 10 clubs, than they embarked on a run which took them to within a whisker of Wembley. Instead of helping them in the two semi-finals against Middlesbrough, he had to support them from the stands.

His biggest regret, however, is not making more of his time at Arsenal. "I was my own worst enemy," he said. "The opportunity was there and I wasted it. I was earning good money – £150 a week was a lot 18, 19 years ago – but I probably didn't train hard enough and knuckle down to it.

"When my contract was up, they called me in. I could tell what was coming the moment I walked in to see Terry Neill. I suddenly realised I hadn't done enough. It was a sad day but Don Howe took me to one side and said: 'You've got something – stick at it'."

Howe recommended him to Norman Hunter at Barnsley, where his time included a quarter-final tussle with Liverpool. Typically, he missed out through injury. Then came Blackpool, Plymouth, Notts County, Scarborough, Rotherham and Chesterfield. "What's kept me going," he said, "is the feeling that I let a golden chance slip by at one of the world's greatest clubs."



Nicky Law (top row, second from right) with Arsenal youth players 20 years ago. His team-mates included Paul Davis (bottom row, second from right), Paul Vaessen (top row, second from left) and Rhys Wilmot (top row, third from left).

Last stop on his full-time circuit was Hereford, in what proved to be their final League campaign and "an absolute nightmare" for Law. "My manager at Chesterfield, John Duncan, said he couldn't guarantee me a regular place. I left a bit hastily and signed for Hereford on the understanding that I'd come in three days a week.

"When things started to go wrong it became six days a week. If we lost on Saturday we had to go in on Sunday. I was driving three hours each way from my home in Nottingham to do an hour and a half's training."

Alexander lured him back to Derbyshire midway through the season. Law has found aspects of the part-timer's life a culture shock – like the three-inch nail he trod on in the shower recently – but after what the manager describes as "a sticky start" this season his experience has been crucial in Ilkeston's promotion push.

Although Law thought he knew all about the lore of the Cup, their run has been an eye-opener. "When we went to Buxton with a few hundred people watching I remember thinking: 'This is the FA Cup?' Then we drew Rossendale, who I'd never heard of. And you're wondering: 'How many more'?"

RTM Newcastle, another name to test his credulity, came next. Followed by Hyde, Chorley and Boston United. "Believe me, this is the hard way. People in the pro game don't realise how hard some of these little teams graft."

Although Ilkeston will be the little team at Scunthorpe, they are heartened by scouting reports which suggest that their hosts allow opponents to play. Law, who also runs the club's Football in the Community scheme and coaches at Notts County's centre of excellence, acknowledges the size of the task but makes no secret of his third-round wish list.

"Arsenal away would be fantastic, of course. I'd love to go back. So many memories. Or Manchester United. After 10 goals I'd come off and say I was injured! But seriously, though we couldn't pretend to live with sides like that, it would be a great day. It's the perfect incentive for Saturday."

Illustrating accounts of sex, lives and visual hype from Bradford to Australia

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Not a vintage year as far as the quantity of rugby league books goes. 1997 has made up for it with quality and contrast.

Take two offerings from opposite ends of last season's Super League experience, for example. **Running With The Bulls** by Graham Clay *(League Publications, £9.99)* is a rapidly produced account of Bradford's title-winning season, but very nicely put together by a workaholic who took most of the 200 photos as well as writing the text.

Not every season at any old club would justify this sort of obsessive, blow-by-blow account, but 1997 at Odsal most certainly does. Bradford's legion of fans will pounce on it for Christmas, but those with a more general interest in the game will enjoy it for the light it throws on what it takes to produce the success that the Bulls wallowed in this year.

The timing of **Oldham RLFC: The Complete History 1876-1997** by Michael Turner *(self-published, £19)* could hardly be more poignant.

Although the project had been simmering for years, it came to the boil just as the club was going to the wall a few weeks ago. The complete history was in danger of becoming more literally complete than Turner or any of the other devotees of one of the game's original clubs wanted to contemplate.

In the event, the launch of a new Oldham club is recognised by a last-minute insert slipped into the book. The game lives to fight another day in the town and the book is an eloquent illustration of why it matters.

If ever a club had a monument to the richness of its history, then this book is it. It is the first English club history of its quality and the first to compare with the best of the Australian equivalents.

Having said that, it might be a few years before the game in Britain yields a biography as revealing as **Ian Roberts: Finding Out** by Paul Freeman *(Random House, $29.95 in Australia, awaiting publication here)*.

Roberts, the former Manly (that's the club, for heavens sake) and Australia prop, has an astonishing story to tell. It's the story of how he concealed something he had known from the start of his rugby career – namely that he was, as he puts it, just about as queer as it was possible to be – and how he has, over the last year or so, come out as the game's first openly gay player.

Everyone already knew Roberts was a singularly tough player. The mental toughness it has taken to stand up to the abuse that has come his way since he went on the record about his sexuality is something else again. But, as he says: "What can they tell me that I don't know."

Using a writer from the Sydney gay scene gives the book a depth of insight into Roberts' "other" life, away from the rugby field, that could not have been achieved in any other way.

You get an occasional feeling of being harangued about the unfairness of the world to gays, but that is a small price to pay for such an extraordinary life story. It is not necessary to fancy Ian Roberts to find it compelling reading.

Offiah: My Autobiography by Martin Offiah with David Lawrenson *(Collins Willow, £15.99)* might seem straightforward stuff by comparison, although set alongside the 1993 offering from the same team it is positively soul-baring.

Offiah has always been one of the harder men in the game to get to know, but he opens up considerably in this book, even to the extent of debunking rumours that he too is gay.

The most interesting episode of his story is the new material about his return to rugby union with Bedford and his discovery that the grass was not really greener.

Arko – My Game by Ken Arthurson *(Ironbark, 15.95 from Open Rugby)* is an important document in the recent history of the game, especially for the veteran Australian administrator's account of the Super League war. It will come as no surprise to anyone who has followed the saga that his British counterpart, Maurice Lindsay, does not get a great press.

Sex rears its head again, I'm afraid, in **Inside Out – Rugby League Under Scrutiny** by Roy Masters *(Ironbark, £13.95 from Open Rugby)*.

It's the usual Masters mixture of pretentious gobbledegook and dazzling insight. It's worth wading through a lot of dross to find out that the first job that the architect of Super League, John Ribot, had when he came to play in Sydney was repossessing televisions. Better still is an anecdote about the Test scrum-half, Ricky Stuart, who awoke after a big night out with his team-mates staring at a ceiling that he knew was not his.

Beside him, to his horror, was his coach's wife. There's a promising career over, thinks Stuart, until he turns the other way and finds, to his enormous relief, his coach.

If ever a night deserved a book of its own, that must be it.

– *Dave Hadfield*

CRICKET

Australia leave out Healy

Australia 400 and 138-2 dec; New Zealand 251-6 dec and 223-9
Match drawn

Ian Healy, the world record-holder for dismissals by a wicket-keeper in one-day internationals, was surprisingly dropped yesterday from the Australian one-day side.

Opting for an injection of youth and a more specialised limited-over team, the selectors dropped five of the current Test 12 including captain Mark Taylor, as expected.

"What they're saying is 'We're making a real genuine break. There's going to be two different teams from now on'." Taylor said. "This year is going to be a real test year as to how well it's going to go. It's a case of suck it and see," he said.

The selectors had signalled the change in strategy earlier this year after a series of poor one-day performances at home and abroad, despite Australia's status as unofficial world Test champions.

Healy, a veteran of 168 one-day matches and 97 Tests, said he was disappointed and remained available for his country as both a one-day and Test player.

He was replaced by Western Australian wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist, who made an accomplished debut in South Africa earlier this year.

With 235 dismissals in one-day internationals, including 194 catches and 39 stumpings, Healy is widely regarded as the best current Test wicketkeeper.

New Zealand tail-end batsmen Simon Doull and Shayne O'Connor defied all that Australian maestro Shane Warne could hurl at them to ensure a draw in the third Test yesterday in Hobart.

The two fast bowlers endured the longest 38 minutes of their cricketing lives as they put together an unbroken stand of 38 minutes for the last wicket, surviving 10.4 overs of Warne's vicious leg-spinners and increasingly hostile bowling from Paul Reiffel.

New Zealand were 223 for 9 at close on the fifth day as they denied what had seemed certain to be a third Australian victory in the series.

Australian captain Mark Taylor had earlier declared at 138 for 2 to set New Zealand the target of 288 runs from a minimum 60 overs for an unlikely victory.

(Final day; Australian won toss)

AUSTRALIA – First Innings 400 (M T Elliott 114, G S Blewett 99, M E Waugh 81)

NEW ZEALAND – First Innings 251 for 6 dec (M J Horne 133).

AUSTRALIA – Second Innings
(Overnight: 14 for 0)
*M Taylor not out 66
M Waugh lbw b O'Connor 9
G Blewett b Vettori 56
S Waugh not out 2
Extras (b4, lb1) 5
Total (for 2 dec) 138

Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-106.
Bowling: Simon Doull 8-1-28-0, Shayne O'Connor 9-1-32-1, Daniel Vettori 14-1-48-1, Nathan Astle 7-0-25-0.

NEW ZEALAND – Second Innings
M Horne lbw b Reiffel 31
N Astle c Ponting b Reiffel 40
C Cairns st Healy b Warne 18
*S Fleming st Healy b Warne 0
C McMillan c Taylor b Warne 41
B Young c Ponting b Warne 10
†A Parore c Elliott b Warne 41
R Twose run out 29
D Vettori c Healy b S Waugh 3
S Doull not out 1
S O'Connor not out 0
Extras (b2, lb7) 9
Total (for 9) 223

Fall of wickets: 1-72, 2-93, 3-93, 4-95, 5-137, 6-152, 7-218, 8-221, 9-222.
Bowling: Kasprowicz 3-0-33-0; Reiffel 14-2-47-2; Warne 28-8-88-5; M Waugh 6-1-19-0; Cook 4-0-17-0; S Waugh 6-4-10-1.
Man-of-the-match: Greg Blewett (Australia)
Umpires: Steve Davis (Australia) and Russell Tiffin (Zimbabwe). TV umpire: Steve Randell. **Match referee:** Cammie Smith (West Indies).
First test in Brisbane: Australia won by 186 runs. **Second test in Perth:** Australia won by an innings and 70 runs. *(Australia won the series 2-0).*

AUSTRALIA ONE-DAY SQUAD (for Tri Series v South Africa and New Zealand): *S Waugh, S Warne, M Bevan, A Bichel, G Blewett, A Dale, M Di Venuto, †A Gilchrist, I Harvey, G McGrath, R Ponting, P Reiffel, M Waugh.

Australia's Shane Warne appeals as Steve Waugh (left) removes the bails to run out Roger Twose in Hobart yesterday Photograph: Reuters

Inzamam and Aamir pile on the pressure

West Indies 303
Pakistan 403 for 3

Dazzling centuries by Aamir Sohail and Inzamam-ul-Haq gave Pakistan an edge against wayward West Indies on a record-breaking third day of the second Test at Rawalpindi yesterday.

Resuming at the overnight total of 122 for 2, Aamir and Inzamam combined in a record 323-run third-wicket partnership against the West Indies as Pakistan finished the day at 403 for 3, losing only one wicket.

Stumps were drawn 12.3 overs early because of fading light. It gives Pakistan a useful lead of 100 runs over the West Indies' first innings score of 303.

Inzamam was undefeated with a marvelous 169 off 299 balls, hitting 19 fours and a six each off Courtney Walsh and Franklyn Rose. Mohammed Wasim was unbeaten on three.

Aamir and Inzamam's enterprising stand of 323 off 372 minutes bettered the previous best of a 303-run third-wicket stand against West Indies, made by England's Michael Atherton and Robin Smith.

After a delayed start of 30 minutes because of an outfield damp with a heavy overnight dew, Aamir and Inzamam frustrated the West Indies four-man pace attack for more than two sessions. Courtney Walsh brought the long-awaited breakthrough shortly after tea, when Aamir was spectacularly caught by a substitute, Phil Simmons, running back from gully position and holding a two-handed diving catch.

Aamir, dropped on 38 by Brian Lara, reached the three-figure mark when he lifted Carl Hooper over mid-off for his 14th boundary just before lunch for his third Test hundred.

Inzamam, who until yesterday had not scored a century at home despite achieving the three-figure mark five times abroad, finally got his fully deserved century when he steered Ian Bishop for a single to third man.

Third day; Pakistan won toss

WEST INDIES – First Innings 303 (SChanderpaul 95, S L Campbell 78; Azhar Mahmood 4-53)

PAKISTAN – First Innings
(Overnight: 122 for 2)
Aamir Sohail c sub b Walsh 160
Inzamam-ul-Haq not out 169
Mohammed Wasim not out 3
Extras (b8 lb7 nb24 w6) 45
Total (for 3) 403

Fall (cont): 3-387.
To bat: †Moin Khan, *Wasim Akram, Azhar Mahmood, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Shoaib Akhtar
Bowling (to date): Walsh 28-6-105-1 (nb11); Ambrose 19-2-63-1 (nb12); Bishop 19-1-74-0 (w8); Rose 22.2-2-76-1 (nb1); Hooper 17-1-71-0.
Umpires: D Shepherd (Eng) and Javed Akhtar (Pak).

OLYMPIC GAMES

Nagano backs down over skiing course

It may well have been the hardest fought 85 metres in the history of the Olympics. After a five-year battle over where to start the men's downhill, organisers of the Nagano Winter Olympics, which start on 7 February next year, announced yesterday that they are finally ready to back down.

Under a new plan announced after a meeting of the Games' top executives, the starting point of the downhill course on Mount Karamatsu, a rugged peak in the central Japan Alps, will be raised to an altitude of 1,765m (5,791 feet).

"I think we have not just a good course, but a very good course." Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, a member of the organising committee's executive panel said.

Getting up the hill was not easy, however. Organizers had originally set the start at an altitude of 1,680m. That would have made for the shortest downhill in Olympic history, a prospect that did not sit well with the skiing authorities, who wanted the start at 1,800m.

Nagano organisers, however, said they could not change the course because they did not want to infringe on land protected under national park zoning laws.

That position won some support from local environmental groups, but the organising committee's refusal to consider several compromise proposals offered by the skiing federation did not go down well with the general public. The skiing federation also pointed out that hundreds of thousands of recreational skiers use the same area each winter.

As mudslinging on both sides intensified, organisers decided last month they had no choice but to give in. "This is a sports event, so we must take the opinion of sports experts into account," Makoto Kobayashi, secretary-general of the organising committee said yesterday.

RUGBY UNION

All-rounder set to handle a family affair

He may have played 50 times for Cambridge University but next week Jonnie Cocks wins his rugby Blue in the Varsity Match. *David Llewellyn* reports on the English born, Australia educated player who holds a remarkable CV.

The inclusion of Jonnie Cocks at No 8 will add more colour to next week's 116th Varsity match when the Light Blues of Cambridge University go for for a fourth successive victory over Oxford University's Dark Blues.

Apart from his superior handling skills and ability at the line-out Cocks brings a remarkable CV to Twickenham. The 26-year-old Epping born Cocks, who was educated in Australia, is a hell of a sporting all-rounder. He is already a boxing Blue, a rugby league half Blue and is also looking to add a basketball Blue to his collection.

But incredibly the engaging Cocks, the fourth generation of male members of his family to have gone up to Cambridge and the second Rugby Blue after grandfather Frank (1935) will be winning his first Rugby Blue despite having played for the university on 50 occasions in his three years there. "I was pretty disappointed to miss out in the first two years," he admitted, "but when you look at the players who got in it's perfectly understandable: the first year it was Steve Surridge, the All Black No 8, and last year it was Russell Earnshaw. But I've finally got in the side." Dilettante Cocks does not confine his interests solely to sport. Before he left Australia to come up to Cambridge where he is reading management studies, he had been a professional actor.

Interestingly, his selection brings him up against a former adversary from the boxing ring, the Oxford blindside flanker Myles Orsler. The pair met in a heavyweight bout when earning their respective Boxing Blues – Orsler won on points after the three two-minute rounds – and the two of them have kept in touch ever since.

But their rematch, for the Bowring Bowl, looks like going Cambridge's way. Orsler will be winning his third Blue but the signs are that Oxford will again be on the wrong end of the affair. The Dark Blues captain Richie Maher said yesterday: "I don't mind the tag of underdogs but I think we are too evenly matched sides and I think it will be a close game."

Tom Murphy, like Maher an Australian, said: "Their pack is stronger than in previous years but we have also improved and our backs are fantastic. They will have to play very well indeed to beat us."

CAMBRIDGE: P A Surridge (St Kentigern College, Auckland and Hughes Hall) **N J Waine** (Caerleon Comp and St Catherines), **M P Robinson** (Opunake, NZ and Hughes Hall), **M C A Denney** (Bedford Modern and St Edmunds), **N J Hill** (St Ignatious Col, Sydney and St Edmund's); **R W Ashforth** (Bradford GS and Peterhouse), **R J Elliott** (Durham and St Edmunds); **G M Reynolds** (Cheshunt and Hughes Hall), **T D Murphy** (St Josephs Col, Brisbane and St Edmunds, capt), **M T Foulds** (Christ Col, Canterbury and Sidney Sussex), **R A Bramley** (Queen Elizabeth GS, Wakefield and St Edmund's), **A M Craig** (Tauranga, NZ and Hughes Hall), **M J Hyde** (St Ignatious Col, Sydney and St Edmund's), **H M D Whitford** (The Leys and Homerton), **J F T Cocks** (Newington Col, Sydney and St Edmund's).

OXFORD: R A O Maher (St Ignatious Col, Sydney and University, capt); **N J Booth** (Lytham St Annes HS and Worcester), **N A Larsen** (Hilton Col, Durban and Lincoln) **B Rudge** (St Edwards, Liverpool and Keble), **R J Pollock** (Diocesan Col, Cape Town and Keble); **T P P Jensen** (St Edmunds Col, Canberra and St Anne's), **N A Hogan** (Terenure Col, Dublin and Merton), **R P Lehner** (Jesuit HS, Sacramento, Calif and St Annes), **M J Collard** (Kings School, Parramatta and St Annes), **A Reuben** (Solihull and University), **T S Eisenhauer** (St Ignatious Col, Sydney and St Annes), **A J Roberts** (Ampleforth and New), **M G P S Orsler** (Kings, Canterbury and Christ Church), **D J Kelaher** (St Joseph's Col, Sydney and St Cross), **K M J Spicer** (Clongowes Wood Col, Dublin and St Anne's).

Repeat task for Allen and Regan

Northampton centre Matt Allen and Bath hooker Mark Regan have been handed the task of facing New Zealand for a third consecutive Tuesday after being named in the England A team to play at Leicester tonight.

The pair were part of the England Emerging Players team that conceded 59 points to the midweek All Blacks a fortnight ago and also played in a much improved display as the England Rugby Partnership side lost 18-11 last week.

Nine of the ERP team are retained. Changes are kept to a minimum. John Bentley and Nick Greenstock having been promoted to the Test team last weekend, while the selectors take the chance to scrutinise the form of Adedayo Adebayo on the wing and No 8 Ben Clarke.

Scotland must wait for Weir

Doddie Weir has lost his race to be fit for Scotland's match against South Africa at Murrayfield on Saturday. The Newcastle second-row was hoping that a troublesome back problem would clear up in time to face the Springboks, but the Scotland coach, Ritchie Dixon, yesterday revealed that Weir will need up to another two weeks before he can contemplate a playing return.

His absence from a 26-man squad named yesterday was the main blow to the Scots as they seek to erase the memory of a drubbing at the hands of Australia nine days ago.

The former captain, Rob Wainwright, looks set to replace the unfortunate Adam Roxburgh – concussed against the Wallabies – after playing his first game in a month for his club, Dundee HSFP, at Glasgow Hawks on Saturday.

But doubts remain over two more Lions, Alan Tait and Gregor Townsend, with the Newcastle centre Tait given only a 50-50 chance of recovering from a hamstring pull sustained during training last week.

Townsend was reported as being "very positive" about overcoming a knee injury incurred during the same intensive session at Murrayfield.

SCOTLAND SQUAD (v South Africa, Murrayfield, Saturday): **Backs:** G Armstrong (Newcastle Falcons), C Chalmers (Melrose and Scottish Borders), J Craig (West of Scotland and Glasgow), D Hodge (Watsonians and Edinburgh), C Joiner (Leicester), K Logan (Wasps), A Nicol (Bath), R Shepherd (Melrose and Caledonia), A Stanger (Hawick and Scottish Borders), D Stark (Glasgow Hawks and Glasgow), A Tait (Newcastle Falcons), G Townsend (Northampton). **Forwards:** G Bulloch (West of Scotland and Glasgow), S Campbell (Dundee HSFP and Caledonia), G Graham (Newcastle Falcons), S Grimes (Watsonians and Caledonia), D Hilton (Bath), S Murray (Bedford), G McKelvey (Watsonians), E Peters (Bath), S Reid (Boroughmuir and Edinburgh), I Smith (Moseley), B Stewart (Edinburgh Academicals and Edinburgh), M Stewart (Northampton), R Wainwright (Dundee HSFP and Caledonia), P Walton (Newcastle Falcons).

SPORTING DIGEST

England pair finish third

England's Walker Cup amateur golf pairing of Justin Rose and Gary Wolstenholme finished third in the Simon Bolivar Cup international team tournament at Caracas in Venezuela over the weekend.

Rose (278) and Wolstenholme (285) combined for a four-round aggregate of 563 – five strokes behind Japan's Kentaro Yonekura and Mitsunori Kaneko, whose 18-under-par total was a tournament record, and four adrift of Venezuela.

Ireland's Jody Fanagan and Ken Kearney came fourth, but Scotland's Sam Cairns and Hugh Macdonald finished in 16th position – one place ahead of the Welsh pair of Jamie Donaldson and Rhodri Price.

Rose's 10-under-par total of 278 gave him a share of second place with Wilfredo Morales, of Puerto Rico, and Canada's John Drewery in the individual event, which was won by Yonekura with a 13-under tally of 275.

Ballesteros' Ryder blueprint

Seve Ballesteros has revealed his blueprint of how he thinks the next European Ryder Cup golf team should be chosen.

Ballesteros resigned as captain straight after the victory at Valderrama in September as he wants to play at Brookline in Boston in 1999. "There should be at least three wild-card selections," he said. "I think qualification should only be in the current year, not starting the previous September, and the top 5 in any tournament should be awarded points. It should not be done on money." Having the qualifying race over eight months rather than 12 would reduce the chances of an out-of-form player making the side.

Ballesteros had only two wild cards this year. He wanted four, but his request was rejected by Europe's Ryder Cup Committee, and but for Miguel Angel Martin's injury he would have been forced to omit either Nick Faldo, Jose Maria Olazabal or Jesper Parnevik.

American football

NFL: Buffalo 20 NY Jets 10; New Orleans 16 Carolina 13; Jacksonville 29 Baltimore 27; Kansas City 44 San Francisco 9; New England 20 Indianapolis 17; Philadelphia 44 Cincinnati 42; St Louis 23 Washington 20 Pittsburgh 26 Arizona 20 *(ot)*; Tampa Bay 20 NY Giants 8; Miami 34 Oakland 16; Atlanta 24 Seattle 17; Denver 38 San Diego 28.

Basketball

NBA: Indiana 101 Philadelphia 89; Atlanta 108 San Antonio 96; Vancouver 97 Detroit 95; Seattle 103 Orlando 91; New Jersey 87 Sacramento 73; LA Lakers 105 Toronto 99.

Boxing

Herbie Hide will make the first defence of his World Boxing Organisation heavyweight title at the Norwich Sports Village on 17 January. Hide reclaimed the title he lost to Riddick Bowe by defeating American Tony Tucker at the same venue last July. An opponent has to be confirmed. Jonathan Thaxton (Norwich) is also on the bill after successfully defending his WBO and International Boxing Federation Intercontinental light-welterweight title with a points verdict over Latvia's Rimvidas Bilius on Saturday. He will face Londoner Jason Rowlands, while the other championship belt being contested is the WBO Intercontinental super-featherweight title between holder Dean Pithie and challenger Paul Griffin.

TODAY'S NUMBER

4

The players sent off as Internacional defeated Santos 4-1 in the Brazilian football championship at the weekend to avenge a 4-0 defeat they suffered against the same team a week ago. Two players were sent off in the first two minutes and there were 16 bookings.

Cricket

SUPERSPORT SERIES (Final day of four): Durban: Eastern Province 238 for 6 dec (K C Wessels 65, J Kemp 51no); Natal 33 for 2. **Match drawn. Johannesburg:** Gauteng 89 and 183 Free State 205 and 70 for 3. **Free State won by 8 wickets.**

TOUR MATCH (Cape Town): West Indies A 290 and 174. Western Province 199 and 232 (H D Ackerman 72, H Pangarker 53, O Gibson 5-85). **West Indies won by 23 runs**

ENGLAND SQUAD FOR TOUR OF PAKISTAN AND SHARJAH: A J Hollioake (Surrey capt), **A D Brown** (Surrey), **N V Knight** (Warwickshire), **A J Stewart** (Surrey wicketkeeper), **G A Hick** (Worcestershire), **G P Thorpe** (Surrey), **B C Hollioake** (Surrey), **M A Ealham** (Kent), **M V Fleming** (Kent), **D R Brown** (Warwickshire), **R D B Croft** (Glamorgan), **A F Giles** (Warwickshire), **D W Headley** (Kent), **P J Martin** (Lancashire). **Tour manager:** D A Graveney. **Coach:** D Lloyd. **Physio:** W P Morton. **Press officer:** B H Murgatroyd. **Itinerary: 2 December:** Arrive in Lahore. **4 Dec:** Practice match involving entire squad plus invited local players; **5 Dec:** v Pakistan A (Lahore). **7 Dec:** v Pakistan A (Lahore). **8 Dec:** Travel to Sharjah. **11 Dec:** v India; **13 Dec:** v West Indies; **15 Dec:** v Pakistan. **19 Dec:** Final of Champions Trophy *(if qualified)*. **20 Dec.** Return to London.

Cycling

Britain's Italian-born cyclist Max Sciandri finished a weekend training session in hospital with multiple injuries after colliding with an oncoming car. Sciandri, who is with the Francaise des Jeux team, was training with two other riders at Montecatini Terme yesterday when he swerved to avoid people who had wandered into their path and ended up against the windscreen of a car. He suffered a head injury, cuts to the face and a broken tooth. He was taken to hospital in Pistoia and is not expected to train for three weeks.

Football

FA UMBRO TROPHY First round proper draw: Barrow v Worksop; Marine or Grantham v Bradford Park Avenue or Leigh RMI; Halifax Town v Blyth Spartans; Lancaster v Northwich Victoria; Hednesford v Gainsborough Trinity; Burton Albion v Great Harwood or Witton Albion; Guiseley v Telford; Morecambe v Solihull Borough or Emley; Hyde v Boston United; Altrincham v Runcorn; Stalybridge Celtic v Gateshead; Bishop Auckland v Colwyn Bay; Southport v Matlock or Winsford; Gresley Rovers v Leek; Ashton Utd v Chorley; Kettering v Dorchester; Welling v Slough; Dagenham & Redbridge v Billericay; Bashley v Wisbech or Raunds; Hayes v Merthyr Tydfil or Cambridge City; Kidderminster Harriers v Berkhamsted; Bath City v Hastings; Stevenage Borough v Chesham; Woking v Canvey or Margate; Rushden & Diamonds v Farnborough; Enfield v Cheltenham; Hereford v Dulwich Hamlet; Boreham Wood v Chelmsford; Purfleet v Dover; Yeovil v Yeading; St Albans City v Sittingbourne or Abingdon Town; Basingstoke v Gloucester *(Ties to be played Sat 10 January)*

SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS French League: Bordeaux 2 (Lastandes 45, 52) Metz 2 (Pires 5, Herlines 64); Paris St-Germain 1 (Dangou og 90) Auxerre 0. **German League:** Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Heintze 45, Kirsten 63, 89, 90) Bayern Munich 2 (Elber 6, Jancker 25). **Spanish League:** Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Lardin 8, Frascarelli 80) Atletico Madrid 2 (Madar 39, Naybet 85); Tenerife 0 Espanyol 0. **Italian League:** Milan 1 (Ferrara og 29) Juventus 1 (Inzaghi 31).

Golf

Claire Dowling, four times a Curtis Cup player, has been named captain of the Great Britain and Ireland team for the Espirito Trophy, the Women's World Amateur Team Championship, in Santiago from 12-15 November next year.

Tom Lehman fired a seven-under par 29 over Sunday's nine holes to win $170,000 (£107,000) and the Skins Game title over fellow Americans Mark O'Meara, David Duval and Tiger Woods at La Quinta, California.

LEADING MEN'S WORLD RANKINGS (US unless stated): 1 G Norman (Aus) 1175 pts ave; 2 T Woods 1076; 3 E Els (SA) 955; 4 N Price (Zim) 902; 5 D Love III 895; 6 C Montgomerie (GB) 847; 7 P Mickelson 835; 8 M O'Meara 815; 9 M Ozaki (Japan) 805; 10 T Lehman 787; 11 J Leonard 698; 12 S Hoch 693; 13 D Duval 679; 14 B Faxon 666; 15 V Singh (Fiji) 652; 16 N Faldo (GB) 651; 17 S Elkington (Aus) 640; 18 F Couples 586; 19 J Parnevik (Swe) 576; 20 T Watson 547.

PING LEADERBOARD: 1 A Sorenstam (Swe) 47650; 2 K Webb (Aus) 45930; 3 L Davies (GB) 33786; 4 K Robbins (US) 13084; 5 L Neumann (Swe) 22400; 6 C Johnson (USA) 21183; 7 M McGann (US) 17748; 8 L Hackney (GB) 16906; 9 D Pepper (US) 16603; 10 Tinkster (US) 16759.

Ice hockey

NHL: NY Rangers 1 Florida 1 *(ot)*; Edmonton 6 San Jose 1

EXPRESS CUP: Manchester Storm 5 Nottingham Panthers 6 *(ot)*; Basingstoke Bisons 3 Ayr Scottish Eagles 5.

SUPERLEAGUE: Cardiff Devils 3 Bracknell Bees 1, Sheffield Steelers 3 Newcastle Cobras 2 *(ot)*

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Nottm Panthers	13	8	3	2	49	37	18
Manchester Storm	13	7	4	2	60	41	17
Sheffield Steelers	13	7	5	1	54	39	16
Ayr Scottish Eagles	11	6	5	0	41	35	14
Cardiff Devils	10	5	3	2	33	33	12
Bracknell Bees	13	5	7	1	40	54	12
Basingstoke Bison	12	4	6	2	39	45	11
Newcastle Cobras	13	2	11	0	28	60	5

Rugby Union

ENGLAND A (v New Zealand, Leicester today): T Stimpson (Newcastle), **S Brown** (Richmond), **S Potter** (Leicester), **M Allen** (Northampton), **A Adebayo** (Bath), **R Butland** (Bath), **S Benton** (Gloucester), **G Rowntree** (Leicester), **M Regan** (Bath), **P Vickery, D Sims, R Fidler** (all Gloucester), **R Jenkins** (Harlequins), **B Clarke** (Richmond), **P Sanderson** (Sale). **Replacements: M Mapletoft** (Gloucester), **V Ubogu** (Bath), **N McCarthy** (Bath), **S Shaw** (Wasps), **R Winters** (Bedford), **N Walshe** (Harlequins)

ENGLAND UNDER-21 TEAM (v New Zealand Under-21s, Newbury, Friday 5 Dec): M Horak (Leicester); **D Thompson** (Saracens), **S Woof** (Waterloo), **J Pritchard** (Bath), **L Lloyd** (Leicester), **J Wilkinson** (Newcastle), **M Wood** (Wasps), **M Worsley** (Bristol), **A Long** (Bath), **V Hartland** (South West Division), **J Beardshaw** (Wasps and Loughborough University), **J Brownrigg** (Bristol), **J Cockle** (Moseley), **L Moody** (Leicester), **J Worsley** (Wasps). **Replacements. S Dixon** (Harrogate), **J Lewsey** (Bristol), **P Richards** (London Irish), **A Kershaw** (London Irish), **D Alexopolous** (Wasps), **E Webb** (Leicester and Loughborough University), **P Sanderson** (Sale)

Snooker

LIVERPOOL-VICTORIA UK CHAMPIONSHIP (Preston) Final: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt S Hendry (Scot) 10-6. (Frame scores - O'Sullivan first): 29-103, 37-75, 78-13, 115-19, 44-63, 16-88, 67-28, 21-73, 98-13, 75-23, 89-0, 72-0, 79-0, 82-0, 180-70, 17

Tennis

Britains top two tennis players Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman will take part in the Qatar Open to be held from 5-11 January 1998. Henman, ranked 17 in the world, was the runner-up in Doha in 1997 while Rusedski, the world's No 6 will be making his first appearance.

BANCO REAL MASTERS TOURNAMENT (Sao Paulo, Br) Final. R Krajicek (Netherlands) bt G Kuerten (Br) 7-6 6-7 7-6

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

7.30 unless stated

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION
Ipswich v Middlesbrough (7.45)
Sheffield Utd v Stoke (7.45)
WBA v Manchester City (7.45)

SECOND DIVISION
Blackpool v Plymouth
Bournemouth v York (7.45)
Bristol City v Burnley (7.45)
Fulham v Brentford (7.45)
Grimsby v Wycombe (7.45)
Luton v Gillingham (7.45)
Northampton v Chesterfield (7.45)
Oldham v Carlisle (7.45)
Southend v Preston (7.45)
Wigan v Bristol Rovers (7.45)
Wrexham v Watford

THIRD DIVISION
Colchester v Cardiff (7.45)
Darlington v Shrewsbury
Doncaster v Chester
Exeter v Lincoln City (7.45)
Hartlepool v Hull
Leyton Orient v Barnet (7.45)
Macclesfield v Scunthorpe (7.45)
Peterborough v Cambridge (7.45)
Swansea v Rotherham
Torquay v Mansfield (7.45)

FA UMBRO TROPHY Third qualifying round replays: Margate v Corby Town (745), Grantham v Marine (745); Abingdon Town v Sittingbourne (745).

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Gloucester City v Salisbury. **Southern Division:** Fleet Town v Bashley (745). **League cup second round:** Bedworth Utd v Worcester City; Clevedon Town v Forest Green Rovers; Crawley Town v St Leonards Stamcroft (745).

UNIBOND LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP Third round: Altrincham v Colwyn Bay; Blyth Spartans v Frickley Athletic; Spennymoor Utd v Boston Utd.

RYMAN LEAGUE Second Division: Egham Town v Marlow; Metropolitan Police v Bracknell Town (745); Windsor & Eton v Hungerford Town (745). **Third Division:** Hertford Town v Flackwell Heath (745); Kingsbury Town v Epsom & Ewell (745). **Guardian Insurance Cup second-round replay:** Wealdstone v Hitchin Town. **Full Members Cup second round:** Barton Rovers v Harrow Borough; Carshalton Athletic v Aldershot Town, Chesham Utd v Gravesend & Northfleet; Hampton v Maidenhead Utd; Leatherhead v Chertsey Town; Staines v Sutton Utd; Uxbridge v Heybridge Swifts, Yeading v Wembley. **Associate Members Trophy second round:** Lewes v Horsham, Tooting & Mitcham v Corinthian-Casuals.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Pershore Town v Kings Norton Town.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Langney Sports v Hassocks, Littlehampton Town v Portfield; Pagham v Mile Oak; Peacehaven & Telscombe v Hailsham Town; Ringmer v Saltdean Utd; Selsey v Wick.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Herne Bay v Folkestone Invicta (745); Ramsgate v Lordswood (745); Tunbridge Wells v Chatham Town.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division (745): Clacton Town V Sudbury Town Wanderers; Watton Utd V Stowmarket Town; Wroxham V Newmarket Town. **League Cup second round (745):** Great Yarmouth Town v Warboys Town; Hadleigh Utd v Gorleston; Lowestoft Town v Histon; Sudbury Town Res v Norwich United; Tiptree Utd v Woodbridge Town.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Bridgwater Town v Elmore (745); Paulton Rovers v Chard Town.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Eynesbury v Stotfold, St Neots v Kempston.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Morpeth v Easington; South Shields v Stockton; Tow Law v Billingham Synthonia.

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES CUP Second round second leg: Bangor City (5) v Porthmadog (0); Caersws (1) v Inter Cable-Tel Cardiff (1); Connahs Quay Nomads (1) v Caernarfon (2); TNS Llansantffraid (0) v Cemaes Ynys Mon (1).

NATIONWIDE GOLD IRISH CUP Final: Glenavon v Coleraine (7.30) *(at Windsor Park, Belfast)*.

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Tranmere Rovers v Manchester Utd (7.0)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Arsenal v Norwich City (2.0).

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Second round: Blackburn Rovers v Manchester Utd; Portsmouth v Erith & Belvedere; Bury v Peterborough Utd; Hull City v Burnley (7.0)

Rugby Union

TOUR MATCHES: England A v New Zealand (745) *(at Leicester)*, South West Under-21 v New Zealand Under-21 (7.30) *(at Gloucester)*: Caledonia v Australian Capital Territory (7.0) *(at Stirling)*.

England expect to feel squeeze in World Cup seedings

The World Cup draw is not until Thursday but the lobbying for position has been going on for weeks. This morning the seeds are revealed and England are not optimistic. *Glenn Moore*, in Marseilles, examines their prospects of a seeding.

It was not just the movers and shakers of world football that blew into Marseilles yesterday: the Mistral was also whistling into town, which could make the World Cup draw, which is to be held in the open air, more lively than the exhibition match which is to precede it.

The actual process of the draw is yet to be released but, for England, it may be no bad thing if the carefully arranged balls, hats, or pieces of paper are blown all over the Stade Vélodrome. They will hear officially today, but the whispers on the wind suggest that England will not, after all, be seeded.

The FA were still lobbying hard behind the scenes last night but, in public, they were facing up to the prospect of not being seeded. "It will be a disappointment if we are not seeded," Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, said, "but whatever will be, will be. Being seeded is not the advantage it used to be when you played three games in one venue.

"There are six or seven teams that can win the World Cup and we are one of them. Eventually we would have to beat the best so, whenever we get them, and wherever we get them, we will be ready for the job."

If the Fifa rankings are incorporated into the seeding, which is usually decided on the basis of previous World Cup performance, England may well squeeze into the seeds. "We believe the rankings [in which England are sixth] reflect the real progress made in recent years by the England team," Hoddle added. "We have a new respect in the world. Whether we are seeded or not others will want to avoid us as long as possible."

If England are not seeded there is a school of thought which suggests they would welcome Brazil on the basis that, assuming England and Brazil qualified as the top two in the group, they would not meet them again until the final.

This, of course, was the scenario in 1970 when England lost to Brazil in the group stages but still went through to the quarter-finals. Unfortunately West Germany then intervened to cancel the re-match in the final.

This, though, is unlikely. Brazil will be kicking off the tournament in Paris and it is doubtful that Fifa, or France, would welcome the prospect of England's fans being part of the opening extravaganza.

Wherever England start they may be without Sol Campbell. The defender collected his second yellow card of the qualifying tournament in Rome and is thus under threat of suspension. England, and other affected countries, are seeking an amnesty partly on the grounds that Brazil and France had an advantage in avoiding suspensions as they did not have to qualify.

"Everybody should start from the same position when we get to France. We want Sol available," Hoddle added. To grant an amnesty would go against the principle established in Euro '96 when Jürgen Klinsmann and Nadal were among those suspended while England, who did not have to qualify, were untroubled. A compromise is being mooted in which only those who received red cards in the last qualifying game would be suspended.

Most of this politicking seems to be passing the local citizenry by. There are a number of posters advertising the World Cup, a boy leaping for a ball under the legend "Bienvenue au monde" being the most popular, but Marseilles appears more concerned with *L'Affaire Ravanelli*.

After Olympique Marseille dropped from second to fourth in the French league, Ravanelli began acting the four-year-old again. This time he is claiming that the media have so turned referees against him he may be hounded out of France.

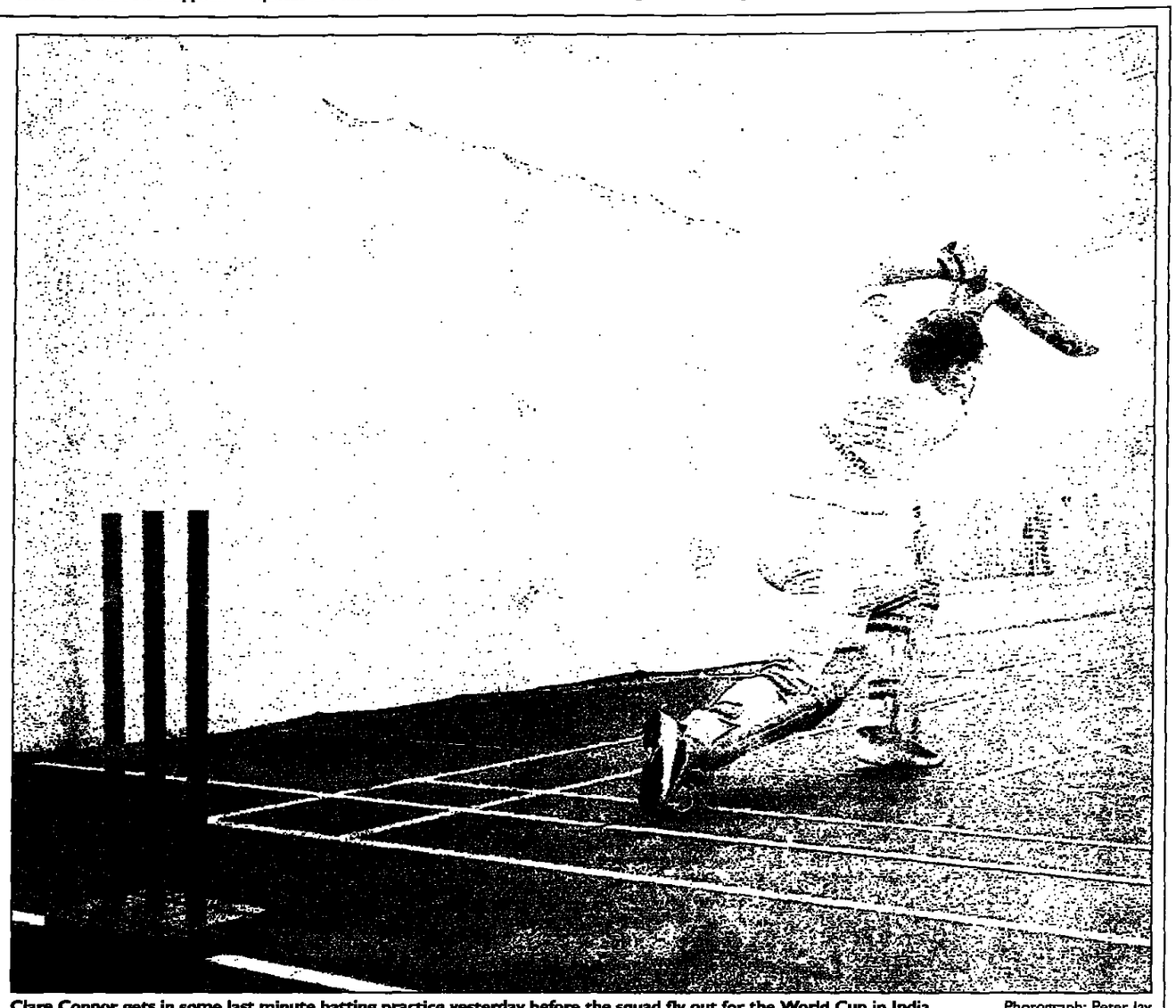
The local support, whose fanaticism won this ancient port the right to host Thursday's match-cum-draw, will not be able to pass an early judgement on Ravanelli as Italy's representative in the gala match is Alessandro Costacurta. England's Paul Ince is there; Scotland's replacement for the injured Gary McAllister is undecided.

Ireland's fans won the Fifa Fair Play Award yesterday for their sporting behaviour during the Republic's unsuccessful qualifying campaign. Robbie Fowler had been a contender after he attempted to have a penalty given in his favour in last season's Arsenal-Liverpool game revoked.

Ravanelli's threat, page 30

Brittin expects every woman to do her duty as England fly out to take on the world

England women's cricket team set out to India today to defend the World Cup. *Mike Rowbottom* witnessed their final training session at Surrey's indoor centre.



Clare Connor gets in some last minute batting practice yesterday before the squad fly out for the World Cup in India — Photograph: Peter Jay

Cricket tours to India have been known to throw up the odd problem – as it were – and the one on which the England women's team embark today has run true to form – as it were.

"We are flying to Delhi," England's record scorer, Jan Brittin, said. "But we have heard that the opening ceremony is in Calcutta."

As they prepare to retain the World Cup they won within these shores four years ago, England are aware that the next four weeks are going to involve a lot of travelling.

Hyderabad, Pune and Nagpur are already scheduled for group matches. Then they hope to be venturing further afield for the knock-out stages.

The holders, who have received coaching advice from Mike Gatting, Dermot Reeve and Geoff Arnold in the past year, have been named joint favourites along with New Zealand, who they beat in the last World Cup final, at Lord's.

The Kiwis are in the other group, along with the hosts. England's main immediate opposition will come from South Africa and Australia.

All the usual precautions are being taken to avoid the fate which befalls so many sporting tourists in India. When England last played there 18 months ago, Clare Connor, who is among those flying out, spent three days in hospital with a severe stomach upset. So, bottled water and no salads.

The England party which leaves Heathrow tonight is a different proposition to the one which toured India in 1996. Previously undreamt of funding has offered the players a level of support that Rachael Heyhoe-Flint would have killed for.

This year there was a National Lottery award of £76,000 to the Women's Cricket Association, plus inclusion in the four-year, £14m sponsorship deal which Vodaphone have signed with both the national teams.

Not the least advance is removing the obligation on players to pay their own way, or at least to contribute hugely towards it. Even three years ago, players were contributing £2,000 each to tour Australia.

"I dread to think how much I have paid over the years," said Brittin, who has played internationally for more than 20 years, "although I wouldn't have not gone."

When she goes this time, she and her 13 colleagues will be accompanied by a manager, two coaches, a physiotherapist and two sports scientists skilled in sports psychology. And as well as feeling different to the way they did in previous years, England will also look different – this year their traditional culottes have been replaced by trousers.

The trousers era looks like being the beginning of the Charlotte Edwards era for the World Cup holders. This 17-year-old from Pidley near Huntingdon has already made her mark opening the batting with Brittin since becoming the youngest England player when she was capped at the age of 16.

Edwards has already shown she is made of stern stuff – she learned her cricket playing for boys teams, and turns out regularly alongside her father and brother for Ramsey in the Cambridgeshire Premier League. She doesn't sound like the type to be put off by a few bouncers and a spot of sledging…

1997 HERO HONDA WORLD CUP (India, 9-29 Dec): England group matches: 10 Dec v South Africa (Hyderabad), 12 Dec v Pakistan (Vishakapatnam), 14 Dec v Denmark (Hyderabad), 16 Dec v Ireland (Pune), 18 Dec v Australia (Nagpur). 20 Dec: 9th-12th place play-offs. 20-23 Dec: Quarter-finals. 24 and 26 Dec: Semi-finals. 29 Dec: Final (Calcutta).

Berg finds United strike force in awesome form

Henning Berg believes the Manchester United juggernaut is becoming unstoppable at Old Trafford. The Norwegian international defender feels no team can cope with their attacking power at home.

United are sweeping all before them in the Premiership and in Europe and they have scored 20 goals in their last four home games. Berg feels this is testimony to the depth and quality of their strike force.

"We have so much quality in the team that it's very hard to defend against us," he said. "I think any team coming to Old Trafford will struggle because of the way we are playing offensively. With our strikers, Teddy Sheringham, Andy Cole and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, it's hard for any team to combat them because of the form they are in.

"Then in midfield, we have Ryan Giggs, who is in tremendous form, Butt, Beckham and Scholes. With so much quality going forward, it's going to be very, very hard for any team to defend against that."

Blackburn tried to stop United by playing Chris Sutton as a lone striker and packing the midfield. However, that ploy did not work and neither did West Ham and Sheffield Wednesday's tactic of attacking United earlier in the season.

"Teams try different tactics against us," Berg said. "When West Ham came here they tried to attack, and it was the same with Sheffield Wednesday. You take a chance if you go out and attack us because if you don't score, then we are always likely to score.

"Blackburn, maybe, looked at that and thought we can't come here and attack because that's going to leave spaces for them to score. But when we play three strikers up front, and with Giggs and Beckham in midfield, it's still very hard to defend against us."

Berg admits United are even better than he thought they were before he joined them in his £5m summer move from Blackburn. In particular, he is impressed by their professional attitude. "I knew they had quality, but I've found that it's not about individuals, it's about how they get together and that's the main thing," he said.

"It's very rare to get that in a team and especially so early in a season. They are so mature in that when they win a game they don't celebrate. When we played away to Feyenoord and we won I was looking around the dressing room after the game.

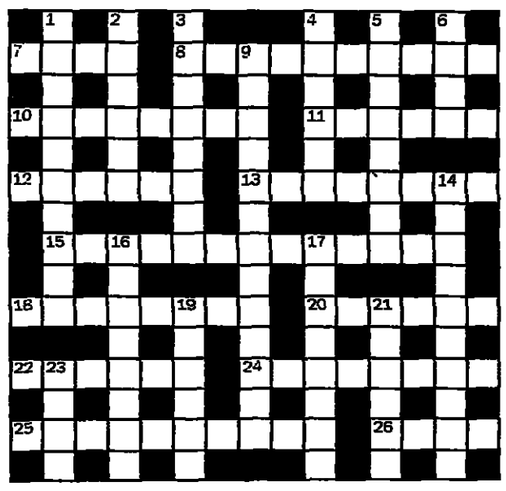
"I thought it was a tremendous result because it had virtually put us through to the quarter-finals, but they were just sitting there as if it were just a normal game. I could not believe it, but they are used to success."

Berg's compatriot, Solskjaer, thinks his best form is yet to come after kick-starting his season against Blackburn yesterday. The 24-year-old Norwegian talent has scored five goals in as many starts and said: "I think I am improving day by day. I think I have improved from last year and I have learned more during the time I have been out injured.

"It would be nice to get my first hat-trick but two goals is enough to start with," Solskjaer, who has scored twice in each of his last two Premiership games, said.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3471. Tuesday 2 December — By Aelred



ACROSS

7 Almost crazy boy in Scotland (4)
8 Dissolute caliph has to call in help of regular characters (10)
10 Notice non-conservative speech is an extra (8)
11 Group of at least three coppers arresting one? (6)
12 About to play rondo, encounter a barrier (6)
13 They produce winter warmth for the old calculating at Xmas? (4,4)
15 Be short of a place to speak? I state it's showing indifference (13)
18 Stretch of land holds answer to deal (8)
20 One male with little protection against European drink (6)
22 Learner in a game is a strikingly handsome youth (6)
24 Wrong to hold time as lasting forever (8)
25 Brawling spreads round Irish street with new play starting then (5,5)
26 It's not odd that time should be lost in race (4)

DOWN

1 Laugh loudly about funny English construction vehicle (4,6)
2 Not asked to keep a number free (6)
3 A hand working round French company's ranch (8)
4 Friend secures right to church package (6)
5 Club ripe for takeover in country? (8)
6 Use deceit to get university place (4)
9 Woman on distant object which appears to be an old bike (5-8)
14 Craftsman apparently doing impossibly well in the Olympics? (4-6)
16 Tin with drink is found in channel (8)
17 Has time to change and limit power of fellow sailor (8)
19 One certain to be plentiful (6)
21 To polish up study is an onerous task (6)
23 In the vessel one is an irritating person (4)

Monday's Solution

HANDBILL FLEECE
N E M I I V O
ROOF ATGUNPOINT
T E G H A K B
CHARLESTON EIRE
E E O C I
BRAND AFFECTION
C O H
BLUEPRINT VISTA
A E E R E
SWAP UPSTANDING
L R N L G R D
DEFINITION AIRE
S D O F E T I
ASTERN EASTERLY

Hollioake given backing as one-day captain

David Graveney, the England manager, yesterday denied that appointing Adam Hollioake captain against potentially volatile opponents such as Pakistan, West Indies and India is a gamble.

Surrey have developed a reputation for being a noisy, awkward side on the field under 26-year-old Hollioake, but that did not stop him leading England's new one-day squad in the Champions' Trophy in Sharjah.

As England prepared to leave for Lahore where they will warm-up for the four-nation tournament in the United Arab Emirites, Graveney said: "Mike Gatting and I had a first-hand view of Adam's captaincy on the A tour of Australia last winter and his qualities were obvious, so we don't see it as a gamble.

"Nor is this a head-to-head shoot-out between Adam and Michael Atherton to see who is to captain England in the future.

"It is an exciting challenge for Adam both in terms of the captaincy and also to cement his place in the Test side."

The 14-man England squad, packed with one-day specialists, arrive in Lahore today and will play three warm-up games.

The Sharjah tournament begins on Thursday week against India, with matches following against West Indies on 13 December and Pakistan two days later.

● Worcestershire are favourites to sign Derbyshire's England international Devon Malcolm from under the noses of Northamptonshire. Duncan Fearnley, the chairman, confirmed Worcestershire's interest.

England squad and itinerary, Digest, page 31

Hamed top of British earners

Prince Naseem Hamed's earnings are only just the start of the biggest financial success story in British sport. Hamed's manager Brendan Ingle reckons the boxer will reach the nine-figure mark before he is finished punching for huge pay days.

The World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion's income from in and out of the ring in 1997 – $12m (£7.5m) has surpassed that of Lennox Lewis, $9.7m (£6.1m), according to the American magazine *Forbes*.

"I said three or four years ago that Naz will earn £40m and all he's got to do now is keep winning," Ingle said. "And with the pay-per-view market and Frank Warren promoting him, there's nothing to stop him earning £100m. Warren has done a fantastic job. The heavyweight champion [Lewis] should really be ahead, but Naz has passed him under Warren."

A recent poll in a British national newspaper put Lewis as No 1 earner with Hamed in second place, but Hamed's commercial interests are now huge.

The *Forbes* list, headed by the basketball player Michael Jordan with $78.3 (£48.9m), puts Hamed at No 22 and the WBC champion Lewis at 35th with identical ring fortunes.

THE MONEY MEN

	Total income ($)
1 Michael Jordan (basketball)	78.3
2 Evander Holyfield (boxing)	54.3
3 Oscar De La Hoya (boxing)	38.0
4 Michael Schumacher (F1)	35.0
5 Mike Tyson (boxing)	27.0
6 Tiger Woods (golf)	26.1
7 Shaquille O'Neal (basketball)	25.4
8 Dale Earnhardt (Nascar)	19.1
9 Joe Sakic (ice hockey)	17.9
10 Grant Hill (basketball)	17.0
11 Greg Norman (golf)	16.2
12 Arnold Palmer (golf)	16.1
13 Horace Grant (basketball)	14.9
14 George Foreman (boxing)	14.7
15 Pete Sampras (tennis)	14.5
16 Andre Agassi (tennis)	14.1
17 Cal Ripken Jnr (baseball)	13.2
18 David Robinson (basketball)	13.2
19 Ken Griffey Jnr (baseball)	13.0
20 Alonzo Mourning (basketball)	13.0
21 Michael Chang (tennis)	12.0
22 Naseem Hamed (boxing)	12.0
23 Juwan Howard (basketball)	11.2
24 Gary Payton (basketball)	11.2
25 Greg Maddux (baseball)	11.0
26 Hakeem Olajuwon (basketball)	11.0
27 Dennis Rodman (basketball)	11.0
28 Wayne Gretzky (ice hockey)	10.9
29 Mike Piazza (baseball)	10.6
30 Reggie Miller (basketball)	10.4
35 Lennox Lewis (boxing)	9.7

All figures in millions (total includes salary and endorsements)
Source: Forbes magazine

©Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford
Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, (01888 840370)
Tuesday 2 December 1997 Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

Maurice Lacroix
Switzerland

Tiago
From £450 - £650

- Precious Metal/Stainless Steel
- Sapphire Crystal Glass
- 100 Metres Water Resistancy
- Concealed Clasp
- Screw-In Crown

The Maurice Lacroix Swiss watch collection can be found in selected branches of the Goldsmiths Group, the largest network of Authorised Agents in the country. The Goldsmiths Group is one of the country's leading retailers of fine jewellery and prestigious watches with more than 120 branches nationwide.

G·O·L·D·S·M·I·T·H·S
W·A·L·K·E·R & H·A·L·L
THE MARK OF A FINE JEWELLER

For further information and details of your nearest agent telephone FREE on 0800 Goldsmiths (0800 465376).

هكذا من الاصل